

# Nation



Volume 19, No. 08 • February 24, 2012

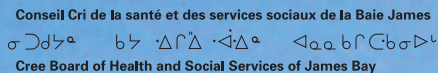
## Feds Green Light Strateco

**The Northern Lights  
trade show**

**Jordin Tootoo  
speaks out**

**\$2.50** Free in Iiyuuuschii  
Serving Iiyuuuschii since 1993  
Canada Post Publication No. 40015005





Since March 2011, the progress of the development of the Nishiiyuu Life Skills Program has evolved and it will continue to be dynamic to the specific needs of Eeyou/Eenou.

**The intent of the program is bringing back traditional approach and healing, as the Nishiyyuu way.**

The significant source and realized of making the Nishiiyuu Life Skills Program are the Regional Elders Council, Abraham Bearskin, Janie Pachano, Sam W. Gull, and professional expertise from Tulshi Sen Consulting. The partnerships in action and successful drivers in promoting this program are the Regional Elders Council, Cree Nation Youth Council, Niskamoon and Cree Women of Eeyou Istchee.

**Briefly, the overall component of Nishiiyuu Life Skills Program is a personal development program that empowers the individual by cutting through the debris of their past conditioning, limitations and giving the individual the key to self-identity. It is designed for the individuals to discover and re-create themselves, find their purpose, realize that they can set a vision, and manifest their vision. The purpose of this program is to create a new mindset, the Nishiiyuu Way, the Wisdom of which is to be transferred and transmitted by the Elders to the younger generations.**

With the *Train the Trainer Program*, the Nishiiyuu Way is designed to develop Trainers and Trainees belonging to Eeyou/Eenou culture, to deliver the Nishiiyuu Way of Personal Development Program to their own people. In this first series of training, the trainers will be given what life skills is all about, what it's purpose is, and how to deliver it. And they will be given the know-how of life skills of Nishiiyuu Way. Upon completion of training, the team of trainers will be coaching, inspiring and training to unleash

a force to challenge the social problems that are predominant in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee.

From 23rd to 27th of January 2012, a seminar was administered to the trainers, along with the Elders Council in Val d'Or, QC. The seminar was built to awaken, inspire and build. The trainers were introduced to the Nishiiyuu Life Skills Program about its description, concept, purpose, benefits and more importantly, the emphasis that the trainers will become the Nishiiyuu Way. Furthermore, an awareness and orientation tool titled 'James Bay Cree and Social Impacts of Regional Historic Events' prepared by Janie Pachano, B.Com., M.B.A. was distributed to the trainers. This document will be of assistance and provide a historical knowledge for the trainers. Upon completion of the seminar, the trainers were empowered and motivated to pursue the Nishiiyuu Way and looking forward to completing the training and prepare to deliver the workshop on Nishiiyuu Life Skills Program to Eeyou/Eenou Istchee.

The "*Train the Trainer Program*" will now be in progress for the actual training, which consists of three weeks. The two consecutive week training will commence on February 13th to 24th, 2012 in Gatineau, QC., and the final week is scheduled for March 19th to 23rd, 2012, which location is yet to be determined.

In the near future, a list of successful trainers will be presented and that the Nishiiyu Miyupimaatisiium will ensure that the Workshops of Nishiiyu Life Skills Program will be carried out in Eeyou/Eenou Istchee. Meegwetch!

For further information, please feel free to contact the following:

Sam W. Gull, Assistant Executive Director – Nishiiyuu  
Miyupimaatisiun Sam.Gull@ssss.gouv.qc.ca  
Abraham Bearskin, Coordinator of Nishiiyuu  
Miyupimaatisiun abearskin@ssss.gouv.qc.ca



## "For you...."

By Will Nicholls

My grandmother shared a story with her family. My mother knows it and so do all her children. I would like to share it with you and I can only hope I do it justice.

When Gookum was a young girl it was the hard times. Non-Native trappers came in and trapped without thought. Game was scarce and families faced and experienced starvation. Her family was no different from anyone else.

Now, normally the man or men got the last of the food so they would have strength to hunt for game or check the snares and traps. My great-grandfather, Emmett Matoush, though, left the last of the food with his family.

My grandmother worried and asked him how he would be. He replied that the Creator and the land would take care of him and went off.

Later in the day Gookum would check for him returning. Finally she saw him walking back on his snowshoes pulling his toboggan. She rushed out to see him and discovered he had been successful in his hunt. The family wouldn't go hungry for a while.

She told him how worried she was and asked him about his day.

He smiled and said to remember what he told her about the Creator and the land.

"I stopped for tea," he said. It was a well-used tea bag but he still put the kettle on over a fire he made knowing the warmth would give him strength.

As he was waiting he said a Whiskeyjack flew near. "It was a fat one," he said and he knew the Creator and the land had sent it.

He carefully picked up a piece of wood he had cut for the fire. He swung

and hit the small bird. After plucking it he roasted it on a stick.

"See," he said, "I told you I would be taken care of. And do you know that I could only eat half of the Whiskeyjack – I was so full I couldn't eat more. That's how I knew the Creator and the land gave it to me."

He then reached into his coat pocket and pulled out the other half of the Whiskeyjack saying, "and this is for you my daughter."

I have always loved that story and I am grateful I have had a chance to share it with you. You may wonder why I have chosen to do this? It is quite simple. For a long time I have looked and heard about people of all ages who feel lost or feel there is no hope or place for them.

Look at how my great-grandfather felt and dealt with his life. He knew something and lived it fully and completely. Perhaps that sense of belonging or knowing where you are cannot be found in the day-to-day life of the community. Perhaps you need to go back to where the Cree always were – on the land. I know when I am there I feel more complete and I feel a connection that I cannot explain to those who haven't experienced it.

Isn't it worth a try to know yourself and your place in the world if you haven't found it yet? Our roots as Cree in Eeyou Istchee are strong. The land made the Cree what they are today. But every now and then we need to return to know who we are and be nourished and strengthened. When you partake of that part of creation that is Eeyou Istchee, you will never be lost again.

# Contents

## editorial

"For you...." 3

## rez notes

2012? What happens next? 4

## news

Trudeau takes on Brazeau 5

The state of our health 7

## features

Northern Lights trade show 10

Barriere Lake continues battle 14

Strateco gets go-ahead 17

McGill's Aboriginal Sustainability Project 21

Top cop 23

Jordin Tootoo discusses 26

James Bay Eagles 30

Cree Hockey News & Notes 31

"Tournament of Nations" 33

Car heaven 35

Gary Cooper gets day in court 37

## Borderlines

Romeo, Romeo, where art thou 39

## UTNS

Aboriginal women breaking the trail 42

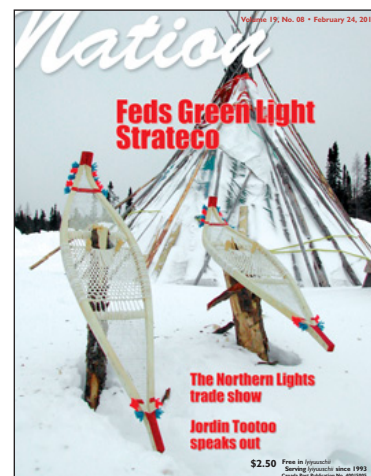


photo by:  
Ernest Webb



# 2012? What happens next?

By Sonny Orr



Well, the people who made a lot of predictions that the end nigh, might have to hang on just a little longer. It seems that the now-famous Mayan Long Count calendar will end on the next winter's equinox – which is either the shortest or longest day of the year, for those who fell asleep in Science class.

In this case, the end is coming during the night so that leaves the daytime to repent. But perhaps, it may occur earlier due to the time standard of the predictor, the mysterious Mayans, who left the jungle and migrated to what is now Georgia, in good old USA, some 1300 years ago. Maybe, they too were afraid of what the massive stone calendar forecasted, and thus fled in a massive exodus to safer northern lands. However, the end is still questionable to those who dare to question fate. Perhaps the end is near after all.

Well, I hope that the end to a lot of things is coming soon. Stuff like inequality and racism, poverty and greed over sharing, hate and anger. The funny thing is, all of this can be changed for the better by just accepting that there is no end to life, so live the best way possible.

Money would be a nice thing to eliminate, as it causes a lot of more problems than it solves. Riches are often misinterpreted as cash in the pocket, but riches are a state of mind. I think just being happy might alleviate a lot of stress, because money can only buy things and some things just can't be bought. I think that the Mayans may have inadvertently started a paranoid time bomb and most likely, will incur some sort of change in our general outlook on life.

For example, many people are still split on whether or not the world as we know it will come to a drastic end. Take a scientific look and the world does end in a few trillion years, collapsing back into one tiny black hole, laden with the entire universe's mass and energy, collapsing until it explodes back into another Big Bang beginning, just like in the Book of Genesis and in advanced scientific journals, which describe these events mathematically and at the quantum level.

Another theory that seems to meet the criteria outlined in many apocalyptic scenarios, is that the universe just simply tears apart, because of the sheer distance and intense strain on gravity, thus entering or bumping into another realm of the universe, or accidentally into another dimension. The problem with the last two theories is that they are backed up with a lot of research. If there was to be some sort of violent end to this world, it would be the universe tearing itself apart, making just about every type of doomsday scenario come true, otherwise the Mayans could still be wrong or misunderstood.

Just think, if we can't understand world events in the present time, how can we figure out the world thousands of years ago, which for some reason, is a more dependable source of information for today. Go figure, scientists and other-worldly believers seem to corroborate one thing, today's world is going to hell in a breadbasket (excuse my harsh language) and no one seems to want to do anything about it.

*the Nation* is published every two weeks  
by Beesum Communications

## EDITORIAL BOARD

L. Stewart, W. Nicholls,  
N. Diamond, E. Webb

EDITOR IN CHIEF  
Will Nicholls

IIYUU AYIMUUN EDITOR  
Brian Webb

COPY EDITOR  
Martin Siberok

## CONTRIBUTING WRITERS

D. David, D. Coyle, S. Orr,  
B. Judd, S. Malley, A. Levitas, A. German,  
P. L. Prasannan, J. Staniforth, X. Kataquapit,

## PHOTOGRAPHY

A. German, N. Diamond,  
W. Nicholls, D. Valade

DIRECTOR OF FINANCES  
Linda Ludwick

SALES REPRESENTATIVES  
Danielle Valade, Ginette Grégoire

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR  
K. Larocque

DESIGN AND LAYOUT  
R. Lawson

THANKS TO: Air Creebec

WHERE TO REACH US:

POSTMASTER:

*The Nation* PRODUCTION OFFICE

4529 CLARK, #403

MONTREAL, QC., H2T 2T3

EDITORIAL & ADS

TEL.: 514-272-3077, FAX: 514-278-9914

*The Nation* HEAD OFFICE

P.O. BOX 151, CHISASIBI, QC. J0M 1E0

www.nationnews.ca

E-MAIL ADDRESSES:

Editorial: nation@beesum-communications.com

news@beesum-communications.com

Ads: for Danielle Valade

ads@beesum-communications.com

for Ginette Grégoire

publicity@beesum-communications.com

Classifieds: Séri Jacobs-Pépin

sjacobs@beesum-communications.com

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

INDIVIDUALS & INSTITUTIONS:

\$60 PLUS TAXES, US: \$90, ABROAD: \$110

PAYABLE TO BEESUM COMMUNICATIONS

PRINTED BY IMPRIMERIE LEBONFON

ALL RIGHTS RESERVED

PUBLICATION MAIL #40015005

ISSN #1206-2642

*The Nation* IS A MEMBER OF:

THE JAMES BAY CREE

COMMUNICATIONS SOCIETY,

CIRCLE OF ABORIGINAL

CONTROLLED PUBLISHERS,

MAGAZINES CANADA

QUEBEC COMMUNITY

NEWSPAPER ASSN.

CANADIAN COMMUNITY

NEWSPAPERS ASSN.

LES HEBDOS SÉLECT DU QUÉBEC

We acknowledge the financial support of the  
Government of Canada through the Canada Periodical  
Fund (CPF) for our publishing activities.

facebook.com/NATIONnewsMagazine



CMCA  
AUDITED



SÉLECT





# Political rumble

## Justin Trudeau takes on Senator Brazeau getting in the boxing ring

By Amy German

Taking their dust-ups from the political arena to the boxing ring, Liberal MP Justin Trudeau and Conservative Senator Patrick Brazeau are set to duke it out for charity in March.

While they first sparred over Twitter over a number of Aboriginal issues, such as Canada's scandalous number of murdered and missing women, it was Trudeau that actually approached Brazeau for the Ottawa rumble.

The event will take place as part of the Fight for the Cure cancer fundraiser event in Ottawa on March 31 and, according to Trudeau, getting into the ring for real after years of recreational boxing will be a chance of a lifetime.

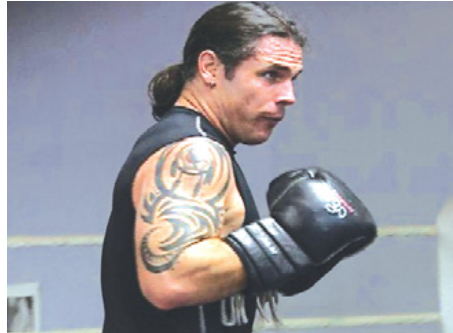
"When I had a friend tell me about this charity boxing match in Ottawa I thought 'Oh, what fun!' I didn't automatically think of the senator but I did think that it would be nice to have someone from across the house to box with me," said Trudeau.

Brazeau wasn't Trudeau's first choice however but since no other politicians volunteered – both Conservative MP Rob Anders and Defense Minister Peter MacKay declined – Brazeau seemed like the best contender because of their history and his fitness level.

While the Fight for the Cure is an annual Ottawa white-collar boxing fundraiser that has pitted high-end lawyers against each other as well as folks from various prominent walks of life, this will be the first time that two politicians have squared off in the ring.

In terms of going up against his ultimate political adversary, Prime Minister Stephen Harper, Trudeau said that it didn't even cross his mind to ask him as it would have just seemed "silly".

"Even asking the Defense Minister, I wasn't too sure as to whether he would be allowed as it is one thing for a backbencher to scrap in the ring, but it's another thing for someone in a cabinet post to do it," said Trudeau.



In that Brazeau, an Algonquin from the Kitigan Zibi reserve near Maniwaki, was the only politician willing to go up against him, once the event became concrete, Trudeau said he actually did worry about how this would be perceived by the public.

While Trudeau said he has demonstrated a huge affection and closeness to the First Nations communities over the course of his lifetime, he was concerned that his going head-to-head with Brazeau would be construed as him beating up on a minority.

"But, this was immediately dismissed as soon as I started talking to any number of my First Nations and Native friends who said, 'Justin, good call!' This includes some people who are fairly well placed within the Assembly of First Nations. Though I won't drop any names, when we had the First Nations Chiefs Assembly in Ottawa there were a number of chiefs who pulled me aside and said, 'You make sure you win this one for us!'" said Trudeau.

A staunch defender of the Conservative government's actions regarding funding on Aboriginal reserves, Brazeau has often drawn criticism from many Aboriginal leaders who feel that the government should be doing more.

During last year's federal election Brazeau and Trudeau engaged in a Twitter battle after over whether his handle, "TheBrazman", was befitting of a senator and saying that it lacked "gravitas". This led to a debate over a series of Aboriginal issues from education to



murdered and missing women and where Brazeau went as far as saying that the missing and murdered women had already been dealt with.

The remarks were met with outrage across the country from advocacy groups for the murdered and missing women and, in particular, from their families who feel that the Conservatives are trying to sweep the issue under the rug and silence them by defunding national groups that were helping them lobby for action.

But Trudeau doesn't see taking Brazeau into the ring as something that will detract from the seriousness of these issues. Instead, Trudeau is hoping that his political convictions may give him a bit of an edge.

"I will say that in the people I have asked, and there are a number of Conservatives that I might have asked that I didn't ask. I didn't because I am friends with them and I get along with them and I would not want to go into the ring with any sort of hesitation about whether I want to punch this person in the face as hard as I can. There will be no such hesitation against Brazeau," said Trudeau.

Despite numerous attempts by *the Nation* magazine, Brazeau's office was unable to accommodate an interview about the upcoming match and nor would they provide comment regarding the event.

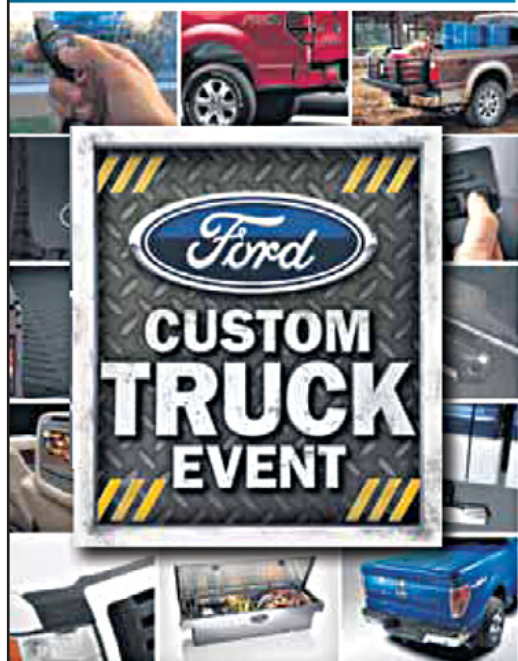
For more info on Fight for the Cure: [fightfortheure.ca](http://fightfortheure.ca)





**YOUR  
FORD  
DEALER  
IN AMOS**

42, 10e Avenue Ouest, Amos, Qc J9T 1W8  
Tel.: (866) 468-3205 Tel.: (819) 732-3205  
Fax: (819) 732-8111 [www.somaford.com](http://www.somaford.com)  
English speaking sales reps:  
Patrice Charron and Alexandre Lavigne.



**ONLY YOU CAN MAKE IT  
YOUR FORD.**

**NOW GET THE FORD  
YOU WANT WITH THE  
ACCESSORIES YOU WANT.**

**\$7,500** IN MANUFACTURER  
UP TO **REBATES**  
ON MOST NEW 2012 MODELS

+

**\$1,000** TOWARDS THE  
UP TO **ACCESSORIES**  
**YOU WANT**  
ON MOST NEW 2012 TRUCKS



## PROGRAMS OFFERED FALL 2012

### FULL-TIME

CERTIFICATE IN ADMINISTRATION  
CERTIFICATE IN HUMAN RESOURCES  
MANAGEMENT  
CERTIFICATE IN ABORIGINAL STUDIES  
(PENDING APPROVAL)  
UNIVERSITY STUDIES PREPARATORY PROGRAM

### PART-TIME

CERTIFICATE IN PLASTIC ARTS  
(ALSO AVAILABLE IN CHIBOUGAMAUI)

### ADMISSION DEADLINES

**FULL-TIME STUDIES : MARCH 1, 2012**  
**PART-TIME STUDIES: JUNE 1, 2012**

### INFORMATION

These programs can be offered in the communities.

Phone number : 819 874-8728 ext. 6296 ou 6510

Toll free : 1 866 891-UQAT ext. 6296 ou 6510

[spn-fns@uqat.ca](mailto:spn-fns@uqat.ca) [uqat.ca/fns](http://uqat.ca/fns)



Université du Québec  
en Abitibi-Témiscamingue



# The state of our health

news

## The CHB's annual report assesses Eeyou Istchee's well-being

By Akiva Levitas

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure." That old saying best sums up the work done by the Cree Health Board (CHB). The 2010-2011 year was a busy one with the CHB's progress and challenges laid out in their annual report.

In the report's introduction, Chairman James Bobbish noted the CHB's accomplishments and issues during the past year. Bobbish also has a seat on the Board of Directors for the new Eeyou Communications Network. The hope from this involvement is an improvement of links and services in the various sectors, cost-effective and higher quality services, tele-health services that reduce travel and costs, and making everyday operations more efficient and effective.

Bobbish pointed out that a Cree working group has been formed to address concerns the impact of the Plan Nord will have on Eeyou Istchee, and defining a process that will assess projects to lower the negative impacts on health, social and environmental well-being.

The Cree Task Force on Social Wellness was established in 2011. Its focus is to determine the social issues that are important to the Cree as well as implementing solutions in a Cree Social Policy that will be developed later this year. The CHB has been working in cooperation with the Grand Council, Cree School Board, Youth Council, Elders' Council and CREECO on this project.

On the issue of customary adoption, the CHB is working with the Quebec Native Women (QNW) as well as other First Nations and Inuit communities on proposing a change to the Civil Code of Quebec to have the effects of customary adoption recognized. The CHB is also working on a legal case involving the customary adoption of a Cree child.

The Customary Adoption report released by the QNW in August 2010 recommended that in order to protect the social well-being and cultural identity of Aboriginal youth they have to address the root causes behind the problems through a holistic approach. The main focus is to address the effects of colonization on Native people, which has resulted in poverty, loss of parenting skills, inadequate housing, poor quality water and violence on the reserve.

THE GROWTH RATE IN EEYOU ISTCHEE IS AT 1.75%, ALMOST TRIPLE THAT OF THE QUEBEC AVERAGE.

The growth rate in Eeyou Istchee is at 1.75%, almost triple that of the Quebec average. The birthrate in the different towns varies, from around 100 per year for Chisasibi down to 13 for Nemaska. While the infant mortality rate has been dropping since the 1950s, it still is triple the rate for the rest of Quebec. Incurable genetic conditions are responsible for a third of those deaths over the Quebec average.

During the year the complaints department dealt with 21 complaints with most of them being resolved. The medical examiner had reviewed only three cases this year involving members of the Council of Physicians, Dentists and Pharmacists, which was a drop from the nine reviewed the previous year.

A major issue facing the CHB is the explosive rise of diabetes in the community, which in 1983 only affected 2.4% of Eeyouch whereas in 2009, more than one in five adults have been diagnosed with diabetes. Maamuu Nakaahetaau is an initiative that was launched during Diabetes Awareness Month in November 2010. It was started in order to combat the diabetes epidemic by building healthier communities.

Sadly, this past year saw the passing of two members of the Council of Chishaayiyuu, Sally Matthew and Smally Petawabano, who both worked tirelessly to preserve the Cree language and culture. Another tragic loss was that of Dr. Jimmy (Dimitrios) Deschesnes, a cancer survivor who dedicated his life to the health of the Cree community. He passed away on March 10, 2011 from multiple sclerosis at the age of 46.

Chisasibi Hospital has seen increases in many different areas of service. The

laboratory has been performing 23% more tests than it had in 2005-2006 even though it was almost closed during the summer due to a personnel shortage. The outpatient clinic has also seen a 20% increase in visits and a six-fold increase in observation hours.

The radiologist shortage in Quebec caused a backlog of 4000 unread X-ray films from May 2009 until September 2010. Thanks to help from the Fédération des médecins spécialistes du Québec and the Centre hospitalier Hôtel-Dieu d'Amos, the backlog has been resolved.

The closing of dental clinics in Mistissini and Eastmain due to sick leaves by the dentists on December 20, 2010 greatly affected the locals who had reduced access to dental services. These closures decreased the dentistry department's productivity by 11% as it was impossible to replace the dentists in such a short time.

The 2010-2011 year has been quite a busy for the CHB, as evidenced by the 90-page report. There were many issues to overcome and although they succeeded in resolving many of them, there is still work to be done.



## Crees celebrate Paix des Braves anniversary

In a lavish gala held at the ballroom of the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City, past and present members of the Grand Council celebrated, alongside many Quebec political figures, the 10th anniversary of the signing of the Paix des Braves agreement.

On February 8, the Crees played host to more than 200 for a gala banquet soirée and re-enactment of the signing between then Grand Chief Ted Moses and former Premier Bernard Landry.

In his speech, Landry made reference to the fact that there wouldn't be a Plan Nord without a Paix des Braves.

Grand Chief Matthew Coon Come also spoke about the impact that the agreement had on the Crees and the world.

"The Paix des Braves has demonstrated that it is possible to acknowledge unique rights, to respect another's perspective, to understand differences, to appreciate one another's visions, and to give expression to all these by finding common ground for everyone's mutual benefit."

The historic 2002 agreement was responsible for the implementation of existing obligations of the Quebec government to the Cree people under Section 28 of the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

## Romeo Saganash pulls out of NDP leadership race

Citing a lack of financial support and competing demands on his time, Romeo Saganash, the first Indigenous person to ever run for a party leadership position, pulled his candidacy from the NDP leadership race to replace deceased leader Jack Layton.

The Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou MP surprised the country by



Romeo Saganash

throwing his name into the ring last fall as he was a "rookie" candidate, having only held his seat since last May.

"My mother, sisters and brothers and my children all need more attention than I have been able to provide," Saganash said in his announcement. "I am unable to devote enough time to them, my constituents or my party and run the kind of campaign that I would like to run."

Saganash said he found it difficult to campaign as a "favourite second choice", as he could easily earn warm congratulations but seldom the funds needed to campaign with.

Saganash made it clear that pulling out of the leadership candidacy wouldn't dampen his lust for politics or pursuing the NDP agenda as he will continue to represent those in his riding with the same passion.

"My run for leadership may be over, but my run against Harper's politics is just starting," said Saganash.

## Amundsen icebreaker out of commission for the year

Icebreaker and research ship the Amundsen has been dry-docked for the rest of 2012 until crucial repairs are completed putting some experiments on hold.

The decision to dry-dock the 33-year-old vessel was taken after a

Transport Canada inspection found cracks on four of the six engines. The Coast Guard does not know when the ship will be ready for usage again. Last year, the same type of repairs on the Pierre Radisson cost \$15 million.

It remains to be seen what the Conservative government might do with this opportunity to cut the ship out of the budget. Liberal Fisheries and Oceans critic Lawrence MacAulay said, "With more cuts coming in this year's budget, it remains to be seen how much of a priority this vessel and the vital scientific research it provides to Canadians will be for this Conservative government."

ArcticNet has used the Amundsen for the past 10 years as a research vessel in order to study the impact of climate change in the Arctic. In 2002, it was modified to become a research vessel with \$30 million worth of equipment on board.

The ship was scheduled to be at sea for 80 days during the summer. Although a lot of the research had been stalled, critical work will be accomplished on other ships.

## Ojibway man beaten by Toronto police officers

Toronto resident Jordan Hewitt, a member of the Ojibway First Nation, was arrested in the early hours of February 1 by members of the Toronto Police Department's 52 Division. In an interview posted on the video-sharing website Vimeo, Hewitt alleges that not only was he badly beaten by police, but he was also verbally abused in the process by officers who made homophobic and anti-Aboriginal statements.

In his telling of the story, Hewitt admits to being intoxicated. He says he was arrested and, when brought to the police station to be booked, was strip-searched.

"That didn't help," says Hewitt. "And being intoxicated, I was becoming more and more aggressive. The next thing you know, I'm getting my ass kicked by these cops."

Hewitt says, however, that the police reaction far outweighed any demand for the use of force in restraining a belligerent arrestee.

"As you can see by my injuries," Hewitt says in the video, motioning to a visible split lip and contusions on his face, nose and forehead, "they didn't go lightly on me. I was called a 'faggot' and a 'drunken Indian.' It was quite surreal, to be honest, because I've never been assaulted like that before. It really affected me, not just on the outside, but the inside as well."

Hewitt says that officers at 52 Division locked him in a cell until late the following afternoon, at which time he was released. By then, he was experiencing dizziness and nausea and went to the hospital, fearing a head injury. After

administering given tests, doctors told Hewitt that he had a concussion, but one that had been left too long to be treated.

Hewitt explains, "They said, 'There's not a lot we can do for you now. Had you come sooner, we could have attended you with proper care.' But the reason was that I was in custody, not getting the treatment I was supposed to get for those types of injuries."

Sergeant Paul Rinkoff of 52 Division was the officer in charge of Hewitt's arrest. When reached for comment, he said he had no recollection of the incident or of Hewitt himself.

"I have no response," said Rinkoff. "I'm not aware of any allegations at this time."

## LETTER

### Educational concerns

I just read your article on the high school graduation rates across the James Bay territory ("More graduates

needed", Vol. 19, No. 07, February 10, 2012) and needless to say, I thought it was a sad story. I once did my schooling in Wemindji in my early teens and I have to admit that the standards back then were pretty low; so were the opportunities. So if it's still that way to this day...well...that's just inexcusable.

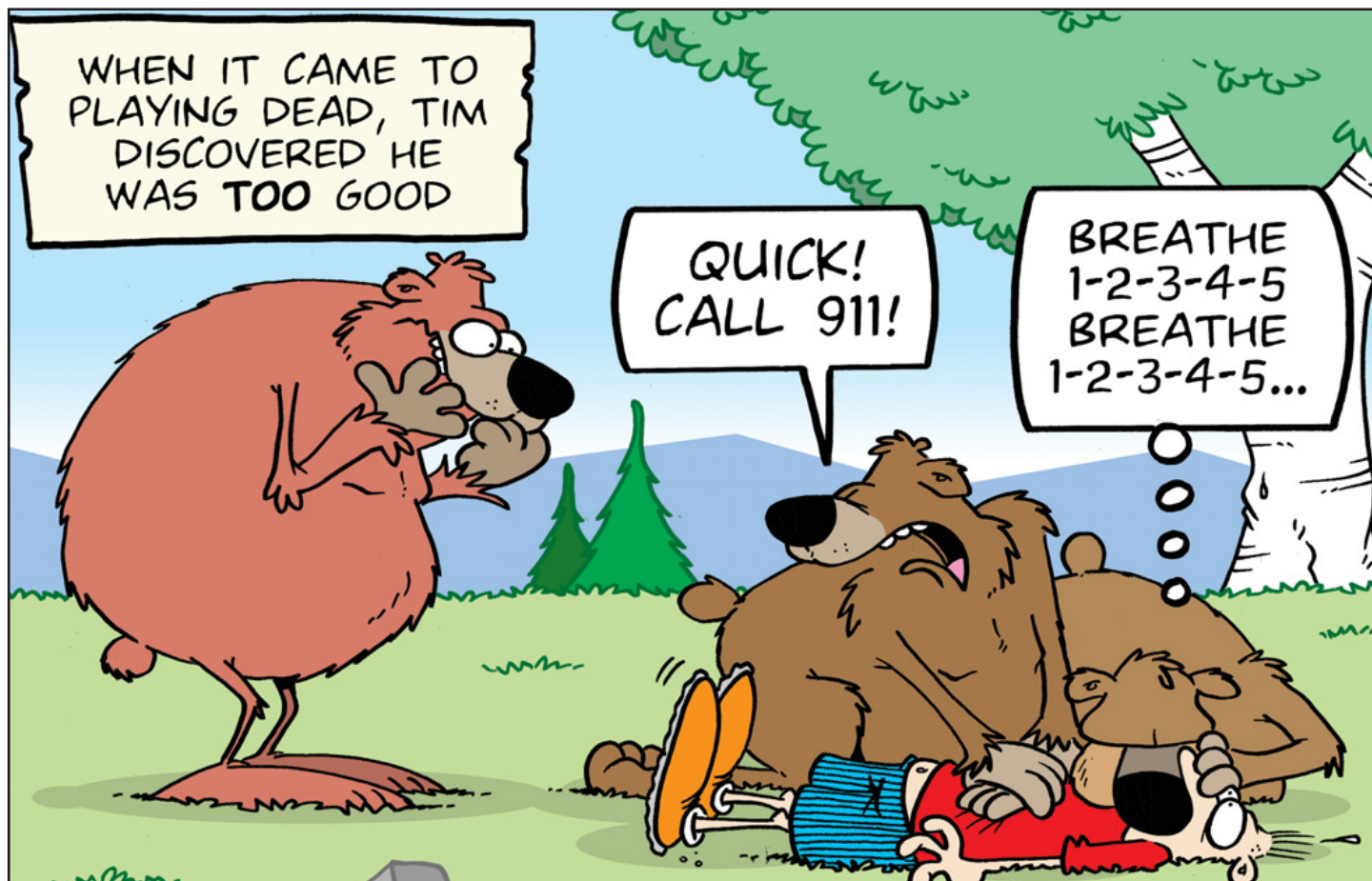
A Cree student's mind can't be expanded nor inspired in a place like that. Perhaps the CSB should scout out successful schools in the United States or various parts of Canada to find out what's really going on.

**Tommy McGee**

*Wemindji Band member*

### Clarification

In the article, "A bridge to the past" (Vol. 19, No. 02, December 2, 2012), architect Douglas Cardinal was assisted by Rubin & Rotman Associates, Architects.







Nelson Tagoona beatboxes while Karen Flaherty and Kiah Hachey provide the throat singing

# A gathering of nations

The Northern Lights trade show reveals that the North is open for business

Story and photos by Shaun Malley



Alex Saunders reads from his book



The SCNATEA team rubs some very furry shoulders



The Ottawa Convention Centre is always abuzz with activity. So close to the centres of power, you never know what sort of opportunities are there to be made. The 2012 edition of the Northern Lights Business and Cultural Showcase gave those opportunities a Native spin.

Between February 1 and 4, hundreds of people descended on Ottawa to drum up business, set up associations and share their cultures with each other. And the diversity of those cultures was heady. Walk through its brightly lit Main hall among the throngs, you find yourself caught between aisles formed by endless booths pitching just about anything. Need broadband internet service in Nunavut? Check. Thinking of building a career as an intelligence operative? CSIS has you covered. Thinking of becoming a heavy machine operator? The Operating Engineers Training Institute of Ontario has a fully functioning mini-backhoe for you to give a whirl. If you listen closely, you find yourself hearing everything from Inuktituk to a cockney accent straight out of a BBC comedy.

There was official business to be had as well. Quebec Premier Jean Charest was on hand to give a speech on some of the finer points of the Plan Nord during a luncheon. Delegates waited patiently for an hour before the current premier and former federal Minister of the Environment took the podium. Charest reiterated some of the main points of the Plan – billions in investment over 25 years over an area twice the size of France. He also focused on environmental issues in the North – balancing economic development with the fight against global warming being a prime concern.

“We’re more affected by climate change because of our North,” said Charest. “The fishing season has become two weeks longer in the span of a year along James Bay. The world economy is moving to Asia, and China alone will become the world’s largest importer by 2014. The North is an extraordinary warehouse of minerals and there will be a sharp rise in demand [for them].”

After the presentation, CREECO’s Jonathan Saganash managed to have an impromptu summit with the premier.



Inuit athlete Johnny Isaluk performs a feat of strength with a volunteer

**“IT COSTS \$3000 JUST TO GET TO IQALUIT, THE SAME COST FOR TWO PEOPLE TO GO TO NEW ZEALAND. IMPROVED TRANSPORT LINKS ARE OUR CPR [CANADIAN PACIFIC RAIL], THE SAME WAY BRITISH COLUMBIA WAS BROUGHT INTO THE COUNTRY BY RAIL LINKS.”**



Cree team-up: Members of SCNATEA, CREECO and Beesum represent Eeyou Istchee





## Planning your annual budget?



Beesum Communications is Eeyou Itschee's premiere full-service communications and publishing agency.

### Beesum's specialties include:

Promotional materials and ad campaigns  
Corporate branding, newsletters and toolkits  
Ad design and placement throughout Canada  
Translation services in all Aboriginal languages, English and French  
Corporate video production  
And much more...

*Beesum Communications  
Serving Aboriginal communities since 1993*

Contact us for more information or for a free quote.

4529 Clark, Suite 403, Montréal, QC H2T 2T3 T: 514-272-3077 F: 514-278-9914  
[www.beesum-communications.com](http://www.beesum-communications.com) [beesum@beesum-communications.com](mailto:beesum@beesum-communications.com)

## The Future Matters!



## Aboriginal Peoples Survey

Education and Employment

Starting in February 2012, Statistics Canada will be conducting the Aboriginal Peoples Survey with First Nations people living off reserve, Métis and Inuit across Canada. You may be invited to participate on a voluntary basis.

Your participation will help provide a better understanding of the opportunities and challenges that lead to success in education and employment. Your information will help support the efforts of Aboriginal communities, organizations and governments as they work towards making improvements in the well-being of Aboriginal peoples.

Take part, complete the survey and help make a better future!

For more information, call 1-800-263-1136  
or go to [www.statcan.gc.ca/aps](http://www.statcan.gc.ca/aps)



Statistics  
Canada

Statistique  
Canada

Canada

Charest shook his hand and praised the Beesum-produced CREECO corporate video which he had recently watched in Oujé-Bougoumou. With the formalities concluded, the trade-and-art show commenced.

The people of Eeyou Istchee were well represented at the event. Engineer Rowena Patenaude was the friendly face greeting people at the Cree Construction and Development Company's booth. Also present were the leaders of the Secretariat to the Cree Nation Abitibi-Témiscamingue Economic Alliance (SCNATEA). The Secretariat's liaison officer, Chantal Hamelin, spent the day explaining the aims of SCNATEA.

"This is a tool for the Cree nation," she said. "For business people who want to work in the territory but don't know the culture, we can create synergy and find the right people for them."

One such example was the Youdin Geomatics company. Given the amount of raw material touted by Charest earlier, Youdin will be very busy in the next few years. As geological engineers, they provide everything from the digital topography to the aerial surveys required before mineral exploitation can take place.

A bit further afield, Nunatsiaq News came all the way down from Iqaluit to set up a booth at the show. The newspaper – The Globe and Mail of the North proclaimed advertising representative Bill McConkley with a laugh – is fully bilingual. Roman script for the English, syllabics for the Inuktitut, are written side-by-side in harmony.

SCNATEA were by far not the only economic developers present for the show in Ottawa. Coming all the way from the isolated Cape Dorset near Arctic Bay in Nunavut, economic development officer Clare Kine took the time to share the challenges of creating growth in remote parts of the country. His concerns echo those of many communities, including Eeyou Istchee.

"We face a lot of challenges due to our isolation," said Kine. "Nutrition and cost of transportation are big concerns. It costs \$3000 just to get to Iqaluit, the same cost for two people to go to New



Premier Charest discusses the finer points of the Plan Nord

Zealand. Improved transport links are our CPR [Canadian Pacific Rail], the same way British Columbia was brought into the country by rail links." When asked if he had a word for Cree readers, he smiled broadly and said, "Teniki!"

Some of the more serious business was reserved for private conferences put on by large corporations. The complicated logistics of putting on such conferences posed different kinds of challenges for their organizers. One had problems with real-time translation of English into Inuktitut. Another had an attendee loudly complain about the visual presentation, saying she found it pointless to be at a conference where the speaker simply recites the words written on the presentation slides. Aside from some minor snags, the conference went off without a hitch.

It wasn't all business at the trade show, however. Artisans were represented well represented, with wares of all shapes, sizes and colour on display from across the country. Artisans of Arctic Bay found a very modern way to attract consumers – a bright blue bracelet concealing a USB drive packed with samples of artistic goodies. A notice on the back of the bracelet read "2GB China" – perhaps a harbinger of things to come given Charest's earlier speech.

Outside the main hall, the pace was a little slower and the din a little quieter. Here were the booths for the artisans, artistic co-ops and adventure tours that are increasingly important components

of the economic livelihood of First Nations. An Elder with a weathered face patiently used a fine sanding tool to create a soapstone carving at the Ululaq Inuit Arts.

Further along, a stage had been set up for the day's various performers. With Parliament Hill as a backdrop, Alex Saunders of Happy Valley-Goose Bay read excerpts from his book Aullak. Later, a pair of traditional Inuit throat singers filled the room with their rhythmic drones. Rising hip-hop star Nelson Tagoona kicked out the jams accompanied by another pair of traditional singers. Tagoona would rap and beatbox while his friends Karen Flaherty and Kiah Hachey kept the competition going with their throat singing.

Capping off the day with yet more friendly competition, Inuit athlete Johnny Isaluq put on a display of Arctic games. He went through various feats of balance before going head-to-head with a volunteer from the audience for a strength competition. Isaluq took the time to remind the enraptured spectators that these games were meant to be done in a spirit of cooperation and friendship.

"You always shake hands with your opponent," he said. "You have to enjoy life, share and teach it to those who will come after."

Whether it was to say qujannamiik, meegwetch, or merci, the conventioners were all more than happy to say thanks for a successful gathering.



# Democracy denied

## Barriere Lake residents continue their battle against Canadian injustice

By Daniel David

Inside Ottawa's Old City Hall, Prime Minister Stephen Harper holds court. Nearly 300 chiefs attend but they're skeptical about the timing. For decades, they've complained that federal policies are making "Attawapiskat" inevitable by excluding First Nations from the benefits of resource development from their own lands, isolating

sand compared to the 17,000 square kilometres of traditional territory. There hasn't been a new home built since the 1980s. Most of the existing homes are contaminated by mould. Even so, it's common to find two or more families jammed into a two-bedroom house. Overcrowding creates ideal conditions for a wealth of health problems.

Why didn't the Algonquin speak up sooner? Part of the answer lies in Canadian history. The federal government made it illegal for Indians, or anyone else, to raise money to hire lawyers or take their cases to court until the 1950s. Canada didn't recognize Indians as people under Canadian law, or allow

EVEN HARPER'S "NATIONAL APOLOGY" MERELY OPENED OLD WOUNDS FOR PEOPLE LIKE THUSKY.  
**"BECAUSE THEY DIDN'T MEAN IT. NOTHING'S CHANGED."**

them behind walls of regulations and mismanaging band councils with funding arrangements that make them accountable to the Minister of Aboriginal Affairs – not their own people.

Almost unnoticed, kept almost out of sight by police, about 30 people from Barriere Lake hold up protest signs. "Revoke Section 74" says one sign. They shuffle about to stay warm. An occasional journalist wanders by but, to them, this is a distraction. Tomorrow, there won't be a single story explaining why the Algonquin from Barriere Lake are there. Too bad. These journalists might learn a thing or two about Canada's treatment of Indigenous peoples if they paid the Algonquin some attention.

Pushed from their traditional lands in the Ottawa Valley by lumber barons, the Algonquin became refugees in their own lands. Lured by empty promises to missions near Montreal, a few returned to their homelands at the headwaters of the Gatineau River north of Ottawa. They were self-sufficient, self-reliant and self-governing until the Department of Indian Affairs got involved. Their lives have gone downhill ever since.

Today, this group of Algonquin survive on about 30 hectares of land that the Canadian government calls the "Rapid Lake reserve". It's a tiny piece of

Unemployment hovers between 80% and 90%. A few jobs are found at the band office and nursing station. Logging continues to destroy the ability of hunters and trappers to support their families. Welfare is a growth industry.

In 2007, a mediator's report by Judge Rébjean Paul said much the same thing: "In the past, this Native community was practically stripped of its wealth (i.e. essentially the forest) by systematic cuts on their traditional territories, with no compensation or economic spin-off. This state of affairs led to an absolute dependence on government programmes and subsidies..."

Logging, assisted by Hydro-Québec, make it difficult for the Algonquin of Barriere Lake to live off the land. Clear cutting destroyed a lot of forest, conveniently out of sight from tourists and camping areas along the main highway. Hydro-Québec built dams to generate electricity but also to adjust water levels for log drives, but gave little thought to Algonquin harvesters or the beaver, moose and muskrat. People found beaver drowned in their lodges thanks to Hydro raising or lowering water levels. It all occurred unnoticed by people heading north to La Verendrye Provincial Park for a tourist's taste of the Canadian north.

them to vote, until the 1960s. Quebec didn't let Indians vote until the 1980s.

According to Michel Thusky, an Elder with a group representing many Algonquin at Barriere Lake, "There's a long history of how the government tried to put away our traditional form of governance, how we select our Elders, how we select our chiefs. That's why we're demanding that the federal government revoke Section 74 of the Indian Act – because it's being used to attack our culture and identity."

Section 74 of the Indian Act states: "Whenever he deems it advisable for the good government of a band, the minister may declare by order that after a day to be named therein the council of the band, consisting of a chief and councillors, shall be selected by elections to be held in accordance with this Act."

Section 74 lays out the basics for band elections, the size of a community's council, how the chief councillor is selected, whether a reserve has one or several voting districts. There's nothing that should allow the minister to override the will of the majority of voters and appoint a council or chief that his department prefers. Yet, Thusky and many others at Barriere Lake say that's exactly what the minister has done. Thusky says the minister is continuing a long history



Algonquin of Barriere Lake demand Canada respect their Customary Code and revoke Section 74 (elections) of the Indian Act at the Crown-FN Summit in January.

of violating the Algonquin community's rights to use its customary laws for electing its council. He says that, in doing so, Canada is violating its own laws and treaty obligations.

According to Thusky, the present situation at Barriere Lake goes back 30 years when the Algonquin stood up to loggers as well as the Quebec and Canadian governments. The traditional chief and council managed to negotiate a place at the table and a share in resource management within their traditional territory. The 1997 Tripartite Agreement was considered a win-win situation for everyone, except the logging industry. Ottawa and Quebec bowed to pressure from the pulp and paper industry and backed out of the agreement. Confrontation was inevitable.

The Algonquin blocked the main highway connecting Val-d'Or to the south. Riot police, moved in to arrest dozens of Algonquin. Two former cabinet ministers in the federal and provincial governments, Clifford Lincoln and John Ciaccia, tried to salvage the agreement. They told their respective governments that the best solution for all was to honour the 1997 agreement. Both

governments ignored the two mediators. Tensions rose again.

The community's chief resigned in frustration. This led to an election. It gave Indian Affairs the chance to get rid of the traditional council by recognizing the losing faction as the new band council. Thusky and others called it a "coup d'etat", an attack on democratic rights in

Thusky says it's been difficult for everyone. The community, including families, is deeply divided. Attempts to settle differences end up in shouting matches and worse. Even Harper's "National Apology" merely opened old wounds for people like Thusky. "Because they didn't mean it. Nothing's changed."

## THE ALGONQUIN BLOCKED THE MAIN HIGHWAY CONNECTING VAL-D'OR TO THE SOUTH. RIOT POLICE, MOVED IN TO ARREST DOZENS OF ALGONQUIN.

Canada. They've been fighting to overturn that election ever since.

Anita Descourcy works at the nursing station. She's one of four councillors. There's no "chief" at Barriere Lake. She speaks French. Hearing English, she hangs up. Everyone else contacted refused to be interviewed. An email to Quebec's Minister for Native Affairs, Geoffrey Kelley, is unanswered by press time.

That's the most difficult part, Thusky says. He's losing hope and he knows it. So are people back home. They thought they'd finally found common ground and a new future by working with governments and industry.

"All we want is recognition to the land, to be able to support ourselves. And we had that in our agreement."





## Human Resources: a driving force

$\triangle \wedge \nabla \rho \triangleright^L : \Gamma \sim \dot{\eta}'' \quad . \Delta r'' \Delta . \triangleleft . \Delta^L$

# Grands Prix du tourisme québécois

[illegible]

**MARCH 29<sup>TH</sup> 2012**

beginning at 5:00 PM in Waswanipi

Awards given to candidates that distinguished themselves in tourism during the year

## BOOK NOW

**1-888-748-8140**

Shuttle transportation  
available from  
Chibougamau following  
the symposium  
touristique



Québec 

Avec la participation de :

- Société de développement de la Baie-James
- Ministère du Tourisme
- Ministère des affaires autochtones

# Another green light

## The federal government gives Strateco the go-ahead for exploration

By Amy German

While the community of Mistissini has once again requested a “pause” in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) and permitting process granting Strateco the rights to build an exploration ramp deep into the Otish Mountains, the federal government has given the mining company a green light, making them one step closer to breaking ground.

Given Mistissini’s opposition to the Matoush project, local residents feel this might be a real test of the Cree Nation Mining Policy. Mistissini Chief Richard Shecapio has said his community cannot support this project until all questions have been answered and then they would make an informed decision on the project.

In the meantime, Shecapio asked federal administrator Elaine Feldman to invoke a six-month “pause” in Strateco’s licensing process until such time that community members feel that they have been adequately informed of the risks of the project.

On December 23, Mistissini signed a Communications and Information Agreement (CIA) with the mining company to address many of the outstanding issues that were outlined in the federal

public has been sufficiently informed about the risks of the project.

According to Shecapio, by no means could the signing of the CIA be interpreted as Strateco actually having the community’s support.

Much to his dismay, on February 2, Feldman announced that she and Minister of the Environment Peter Kent had rendered positive decisions for Strateco, giving the company the go-ahead to obtain a license for advanced exploration. Though this is not the final word as the province of Quebec has yet to throw its support behind the project, having federal backing makes the project that much more likely to happen.

Shecapio told *the Nation* that he remained concerned and disappointed that the project has been able to proceed and he feels that Feldman has completely ignored the community’s requests.

“It is clear to me that either the government was given an incorrect version of our support or more precisely lack thereof or misinterpreted the information that was provided. Whether this was intentional or not is not worthy of speculation and our position is to give

In other words, the CIA doesn’t mean that Strateco has merited the “social licensing” that was listed as necessary in the Federal Review Panel South report issued in July.

While Feldman stated in her approval there were seven conditions, all of which pertain to the CIA and include objectives like hiring a liaison for the community as well as a community manager, creating a new office in Mistissini, creating panels with joint membership from the community and the company.

While Strateco has to meet every clause laid out in the CIA, they will now also have to report back to the federal administrator in six months and then again in a year to show that all of the demands have been met.

According to Strateco’s President Guy Hébert, this process has already begun.

He was also quick to say that Mistissini’s request for a pause is doing nothing other than creating a lot of “confusion,” as their request for a “pause” is old news. According to Hébert, the community made the same request back in September and this has already made for several months of delay. He went on to say that Shecapio’s most recent letter simply rehashes the one from the fall.

“They have created confusion here, and created it for our shareholders. We have now received so many questions from them,” said Hébert.

Eager to get the project underway, Hébert said Strateco is anxious to meet every objective laid out in the agreement.

Having invested several months in analyzing the EIA to take part in the review process alongside the community, Mining Watch Canada’s Ramsey Hart said that Strateco is showing the government the CIA as evidence of actual social licensing instead of gaining Mistissini’s actual support for the process.

“It’s not a big surprise, given the panel’s report, that the federal government just went along with that. But it is

MISTISSINI REMAINS ADAMANT THAT THIS PROJECT SHOULD NOT PROCEED UNTIL THE COMMUNITY HAS SUFFICIENT INFORMATION UPON WHICH TO DETERMINE SOCIAL ACCEPTABILITY.

review of the EIA for the project in terms of communicating the risks involved in the exploration.

Following that, on January 25, Shecapio sent a letter to Feldman outlining the details of the CIA and the community’s desire to evaluate for themselves after six months as to whether the

both parties the benefit of the doubt,” said Shecapio.

He went on to say that consultation and communication are very different from social acceptability, and that Mistissini remains adamant that this project should not proceed until the community has sufficient information upon which to determine social acceptability.





**HÔTEL  
DU  
FORT**



MONTREAL



Select Hotel du Fort for your  
next stay in Montreal!

**Proudly serving the  
Cree Community since 2000**

1390 rue du Fort, Montreal, Qc H3H 2R7  
(514) 938-8333 or 1-800-565-6333  
[www.hoteldufort.com](http://www.hoteldufort.com)

**SPECIAL RATE for Cree  
Communities including breakfast  
& wireless Internet.**

*Wachiya!*



**We always have GM Fleet Suburbans  
with low mileage. Starting at \$35,000.  
Go online at [www.gareauauto.ca](http://www.gareauauto.ca)**



**Jean-Claude Moreau,**  
our bilingual Sales Representative, will welcome you  
and we will pay for your hotel room when you come  
down to pick up your vehicle.

**1100, 3e Avenue Est, Val-d'Or, QC J3P 4P8  
Tel: (819) 825-6880 1-877-625-6880 Fax: (819) 825-8980**

## *A rewarding career. A healthy community.*

Take your first step towards an exciting career in the health and social services fields today.

If you have ever dreamed of a career in health or social services, there is no better time than now to begin your education. The Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay supports those pursuing post-secondary education in health and social services by offering:

### **Summer Student Programs**

Students are given the opportunity to work for four to twelve weeks in our communities during the summer months in fields such as occupational therapy, physiotherapy, nutrition and dental hygiene.

### **Rotations for Medical Students and Residents in Family Medicine**

Medical students and family medicine residents are able to take part in a one month rotation within the Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay.

Once you have completed your education, we offer tremendous opportunities for you to shape the future of our healthcare institutions and make a significant contribution to the health and well-being of people in our communities.

For more information about the opportunities and programs we have available, please contact us at the Human Resources Department

**Chisasibi:** P. O. Box 250, Chisasibi, QC J0M 1E0  
Telephone: 1-819-855-2744 | Fax: 1-819-855-2680  
Email: [jobs.reg18@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:jobs.reg18@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)

**Montreal:** 277 Duke St., Suite 203, Montreal, QC H3C 2M2  
Telephone: 514-861-5955 | Toll-free: 1-877-562-2733  
Fax: 514-989-7495 | Email: [jobs.reg18@ssss.gouv.qc.ca](mailto:jobs.reg18@ssss.gouv.qc.ca)



Conseil Cri de la santé et des services sociaux de la Baie James  
ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ ᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕᑕ  
Cree Board of Health and Social Services of James Bay



disconcerting given the ongoing opposition from the Mistissini Cree and the outstanding concerns around environmental protection and baseline data that exist.”

Hart went on to say that the federal government is currently pursuing an aggressive pro-industry/development agenda as its mandate and the evidence of this can be seen across Canada with projects like the controversial Enbridge Northern Gateway Project.

Hart’s take on social acceptability of mining operations is “it is a case of paying lip service to what should be a fundamental aspect of project approval. It is getting PR and from the proponent for the regulators of the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission and the Ministry of the Environment, in terms of trying to appease people by saying that we won’t go anywhere without the company gaining social license.”

In his opinion, Ottawa is “clearly not willing to impede on a corporation’s ability to develop a project when they in fact haven’t proven that it has social license.”

Hart warned that in the end, the path the government is taking is a very dangerous one.

“What I hope that industry can understand is that the path the government is taking is not going to do them any favours in the long run. It’s not going to build trust, it will create a lot of negative perspectives about the industry and the sincerity with which they use terms like social licensing, consent and consultation and sustainability... If you don’t practice what you preach people will stop believing in you and it will be very hard to gain that trust back,” said Hart.

While federal approval has been granted to Strateco, what remains to be seen is Quebec’s decision in the review process as the project cannot proceed without it.

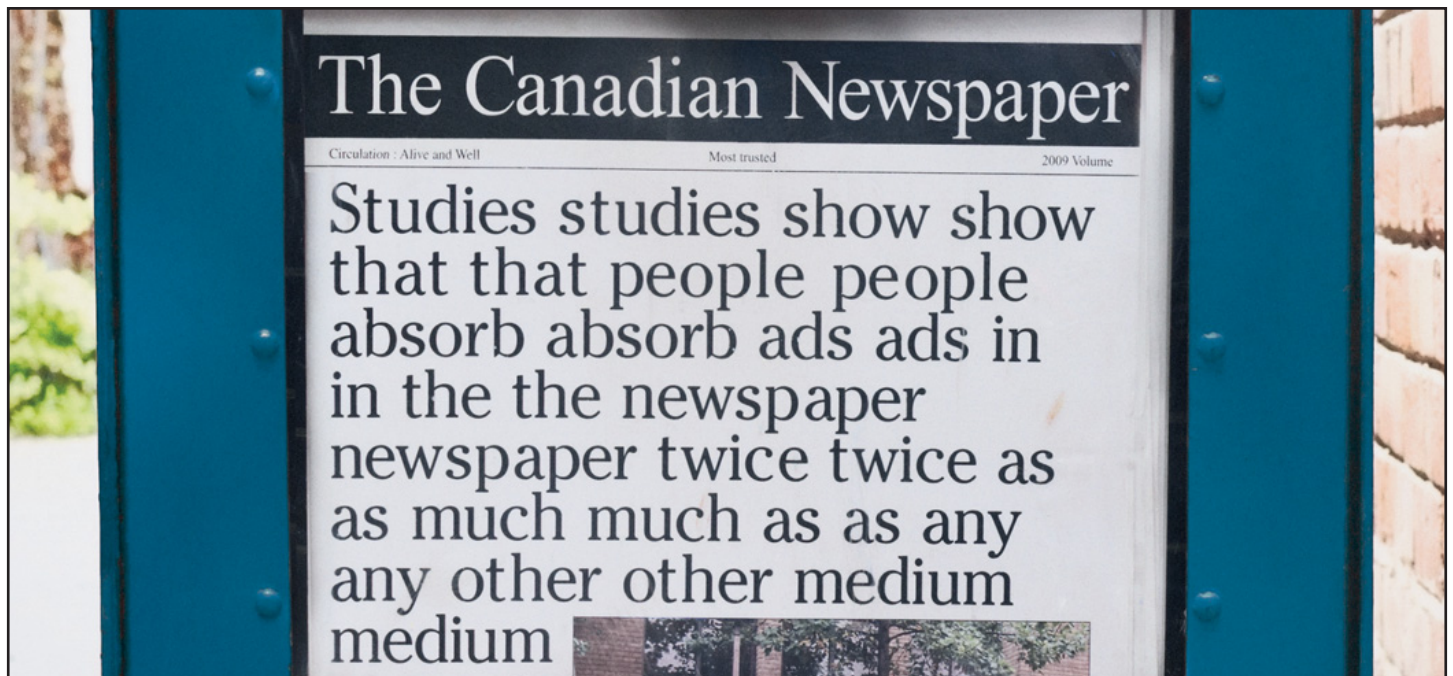
In terms of what the Cree and their supporters can do to get the project halted, Hart recommended that the Cree take a page from their own history.

“Certainly there are non-legal mechanisms to become active on having something like this not happen. Having a com-

munications strategy and letting investors know that this is only about exploration at this phase and so if there is an aggressive communications campaign like the one the Cree had against the Great Whale project, it can certainly throw a wrench in Strateco’s plans,” said Hart.

As for Mistissini, Shecapio will continue to vie so that the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission does not grant Strateco a permit without satisfying the needs of the community, particularly when it comes to their health, safety and rights as granted by the James Bay and Northern Quebec Agreement.

“The Cree Nation of Mistissini is open to development, however we will have to be vigilant in giving a voice to the water, to the trees and our animals as their cries will go unanswered if we fail to act. For Cree and Canadians alike, more focus needs to be placed on the environment that we will leave to future generations. This is well expressed in Section 22 of the JBNQA,” said Shecapio.



The Canadian Newspaper

Circulation : Alive and Well      Most trusted      2009 Volume

Studies studies show show that that people people absorb absorb ads ads in in the the newspaper newspaper twice twice as as much much as as any any other other medium medium

People absorb ads in the newspaper twice as much as ads in any other medium. Engage your audience. Include newspapers in your advertising plan.

NEWSPAPERS. THE MOST TRUSTED MEDIUM.

*the Nation*  
www.nationnews.ca



## JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Éléonore, a project at the construction stage located specifically in the James Bay territory of the Nord-du-Québec region, has been the property of Goldcorp since 2006. The company is currently building several infrastructures and conducting engineering studies in order to turn this project into a world-class mine. Goldcorp is committed to the principles of sustainable development, which guarantee the prosperity of the company's partners and the communities with which it interacts.

In order to support the advancement of the important Éléonore mining project, Goldcorp is seeking the expertise and valuable knowledge of the inhabitants of the region to fill several mining positions. The Éléonore project team is looking for energetic, proud and, above all, motivated people who want to take part in a global project. Join us and participate in the development of this project!

### ELECTRICAL MECHANIC - ref.: 60-028

Reporting to the Mechanical/Electrical Foreman, the Electrical Mechanic is responsible for performing preventive maintenance on the equipment. He must participate in the development and implementation of a program to ensure that maintenance runs smoothly, and must respond quickly to mechanical, hydraulic and electrical problems. He must also calibrate the equipment and check parts for wear in order to ensure appropriate performance. In addition, he must make sure that the automated equipment (e.g. Atlas Copco Boomer M2 C face drilling rig and Caterpillar AD55 underground articulated truck) is in proper working order in collaboration with the specialized technicians.

The suitable candidate must have vocational training in electromechanics or a related field, along with at least five years' experience, preferably in the mining sector. He must also have basic skills in English. Modular training for the mining industry is a major asset.

The work schedule consists of 14 days of work followed by 14 days off. The position is based at the location of the mine.

### ELECTRICIAN - ref.: 60-029

Reporting to the Mechanical/Electrical Foreman, the Electrician must read and interpret electrical schematics and plans in order to determine the location of industrial electrical equipment and diagnose problems. He must also install, replace and repair the electrical equipment required for work at the mine and camp. In addition, he must perform preventive maintenance on the equipment through work orders and keep the logs up to date.

The suitable candidate must have electrical training as well as three to five years' experience, preferably in underground mines. He must hold a certificate of qualification (licence C) and have modular training for the mining industry. Bilingualism (French and English) is an asset.

The work schedule consists of 14 days of work followed by 14 days off. The position is based at the location of the mine.



Interested candidates are invited to submit their résumé by e-mail before, February 27, 2012. Candidates must mention the posting reference number. Human Resources department.

**opinacajobs@goldcorp.com**

**GROWING PEOPLE**  
**GROWING SAFETY**  
**GROWING PARTNERSHIPS**  
**GROWING MARGINS**  
**GROWING RESERVES**  
**GROWING PRODUCTION**

**RESPONSIBLE . RESPECTED . WELCOMED**

Goldcorp – Éléonore project support the principle of equal access to employment. We thank all applicants for their interest. However, we will only contact those selected for an interview.

THE BEST-POSITIONED SENIOR GOLD PRODUCER.  
 GROWTH LEADER > LOW-COST PRODUCER > OUTSTANDING BALANCE SHEET > LOW POLITICAL RISK

[www.goldcorp.com](http://www.goldcorp.com)  
[opinacajobs@goldcorp.com](mailto:opinacajobs@goldcorp.com)

# Strength in cooperation

## McGill's Aboriginal Sustainability Project works on building a better future

by Brandon Judd

Allan Vicaire sat at the McCord Museum last month, watching a story unfold that he thought he knew, and learning how much of his own history he still has the opportunity to discover. The project coordinator of the McGill Aboriginal Sustainability Project (ASP), Vicaire is leading an initiative at McGill University to bring together postsecondary volunteers and Aboriginal youth to the benefit of both communities.

Vicaire was watching a showing of *The Wampum Chronicles*, an oral "living" history presentation by Darren Bonaparte, which he co-organized with the museum. The pleasant surprise? It ended up being both a teaching and a learning experience.

"The events are meant to help educate people who don't know about Aboriginal culture, but I also find I'm learning about myself in attending them," said Vicaire, reveling in his recount. "I had some indication of what a Wampum belt was and how it represented treaties, but I didn't know how far back you could see the histories of the community."

Vicaire is far from uninformed about the Aboriginal community, however. He came to McGill from the Listuguj Mi'kmaq First Nation by way of Concordia University where, as a student, he worked at the Centre for Native Education and interned at the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal.

Now, he's heading up the first "social sustainability" program backed by the Sustainability Project Fund (SPF) at McGill. Before now, the SPF supported mostly environmental projects. Vicaire said the ASP has a lot in common with these initiatives.

"With recycling, it's everyone working together to recycle for a better future," he explained, while fielding requests from McGill students to volunteer in the tutoring program ASP is organizing for local Aboriginal children. "Our project is about working as a community to build a better future through educational and cultural projects."

The ASP also offers a program, in partnership with the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre, called "The Best Story Ever Told". The media-and-art initiative connects McGill volunteers with Aboriginal youth through creative storytelling.

"It's about learning from each other to create a space where the communities can come together," said Jennifer Loiacono, a Master's student in Social Work who oversees the program. "The title is a metaphor for the idea that each person comes to share an experience and we create a new, greater story from shared experiences."

Both Loiacono and Vicaire hope to expand these programs to include communities outside of McGill and the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre. They aim to promote cooperation that is both wider and deeper and, by doing so, better understand the ties that make Montreal, and Quebec, strong. That, after all, is what sustainability is about.



Jennifer Loiacono and Allen Vicaire at the Offices of the Aboriginal Sustainability Project



Performance Management Consultants

# Go Team!

Is your team working well together and communicating as well as they could? As specialists in teambuilding we work with you to clarify roles and responsibilities, improve communication, transfer knowledge and create harmony in the workplace.

Performance Management Consultants  
*Serving the Cree Nation for over 15 Years*

858 Bank Street, Suite 109, Ottawa, ON, K1S 3W3 • 613-234-2020 ext. 22  
[www.pmcedge.com](http://www.pmcedge.com) / [dhamilton@pmcedge.com](mailto:dhamilton@pmcedge.com)



### CAREER OPPORTUNITY

#### Goldcorp - Eleonore Project

Éléonore, a project at the construction stage located specifically in the James Bay territory of the Nord-du-Québec region, has been the property of Goldcorp since 2006. The company is currently building several infrastructures and conducting engineering studies in order to turn this project into a world-class mine. Goldcorp is committed to the principles of sustainable development, which guarantee the prosperity of the company's partners and the communities with which it interacts.

In order to support the advancement of the important Éléonore mining project, Goldcorp is seeking the expertise and valuable knowledge of the inhabitants of the region to fill several mining positions. The Éléonore project team is looking for energetic, proud and, above all, motivated people who want to take part in a global project.

Join us and participate in the development of this project!  
We are currently accepting applications for the following position

#### COLLABORATION AGREEMENT IMPLEMENTATION OFFICER - réf. : 20-O18

##### Responsibilities:

Reporting directly to the Collaboration committee, the incumbent will:

- Act as a resource person for the Parties, the Collaboration Committee and the Committees in their respective mandates;
- Act as a non-voting member on all implementation committees.
- Ensure that the decisions and/or recommendations of the Collaboration Committee and Committees be fully implemented by assuming an active supporting role and by properly transmitting decisions made by the Collaboration Committee and Committees to the Opinaca supervision team;
- Create and use different communication tools to facilitate the understanding and the application of the Collaboration Agreement.
- Report to the Collaboration Committee and Committees on the follow-up of the directives issued;
- Report to the Collaboration Committee and Committees any issues stemming from the directives issued which may impede the proper implementation, management, application and follow-up of this Agreement;
- Coordinate the activities of the Collaboration Committee and Committees, including the preparation and distribution of agendas, minutes of meetings and quarterly and annual reports to the Parties, the Collaboration Committee and Committees, as the case may be;
- Maintain and manage any database concerning the various aspects of this Agreement;
- Act as a liaison between the Committees and the Parties;
- Participate with the Human Resources Department in the elaboration of integration programs for Cree workers and in the promotion of cross-cultural awareness;
- Otherwise carry out any other functions vested to him by the Collaboration Committee and/or the Parties.

##### Qualifications:

- College or university degree in related discipline, i.e. public, community relations, or some other college degree such as business administration, etc
- Three to five years as HR counselor or in an administration field
- Excellent knowledge of the most commonly used business software
- Can communicate fluently in three languages (Cree, French and English, spoken and written)

The work schedule consists of five days of work followed by two days off. The position is based at Wemindji, Québec.



Interested qualified candidates should send their resume by E-Mail before March 9, 2012. Candidates must mention the posting reference number.  
Goldcorp – Éléonore project . Human Resources Department  
Opinacajobs@goldcorp.com

**GROWING PEOPLE**  
**GROWING SAFETY**  
**GROWING PARTNERSHIPS**  
**GROWING MARGINS**  
**GROWING RESERVES**  
**GROWING PRODUCTION**

**RESPONSIBLE . RESPECTED . WELCOMED**

Goldcorp – Éléonore project support the principle of equal access to employment. We thank all applicants for their interest. However, we will only contact those selected for an interview.

# Top cop

## Reggie Bobbish is named police officer of the year

by Brandon Judd

Less than a year after being named the first-ever Chief of the Eeyou Eenou Police Force, Reggie Bobbish was given another honour for his work: Police Officer of the Year.

Bobbish received the award in December 2011 at the Dialogue for Life Conference, where he was one of a handful of Cree to be recognized for work within their respective communities. Votes were given to all First Nations officers across Quebec and Labrador, and they selected the 40-year veteran of Cree policing for the honour. Bobbish said the award came as a happy surprise.

"I was very pleased about it and I didn't expect anything like this," he said with a chuckle. "Mind you, I'm a person who doesn't expect recognition like that. It all came at once. I got a phone call and was informed that I was expected to be in Montreal at the Sheraton Centre for this event and that I'd be recognized as police officer of the year."

Though policeman of the year is not a new award, this is the first time it has been awarded since the Eeyou Eenou Police Force was founded last April. Bobbish said this fact, and that he was chosen by his peers, were especially sweet.

But the Chief of the EEPF is no stranger to receiving awards. He received a medal for distinguished service from the Quebec Public Security Ministry in 1998, when he was a 25-year veteran. Two years later, in 2000, he received an exemplary service medal from then Governor General Adrienne Clarkson. Still, Bobbish is particularly proud of the most recent plaque he received.

"It says it's in recognition of the 40 years of experience in providing security, which is recognized as an example to follow in terms of resilience and dedication," he said, his initial chuckle having

subsided into a grateful tone. "I'm very happy about all that."

Bobbish started his career in 1972 with the James Bay Municipal Police Force, where he stayed for six years. He then moved into the Native Policing Program with the Sûreté du Québec, before returning to local police forces in 1983. His first position with the Chisasibi police department, where he would spend 18 years of his career, was a Chief Constable.

After positions in Hull, Great Whale River and Amos, Bobbish was named the inaugural chief of the Eeyou Eenou Police Force. Leading this force, the first Aboriginal regional police organization, has been his job since April 2011. He said the founding of this organization, and of the school programs it has supported, were the developments he was most proud to see in the tradition of Cree policing.

"I think we made a big step forward into the Cree self-governance," he said, speaking from his home in Chisasibi. "We have now entered into agreements with the police offices that will allow our younger officers to be admitted to full-fledged status programs. All the senior officers who are out in the field are very proud of this accomplishment. Our officers now can become full members of other police forces within the province if they choose."

The Police Officer of Year award was given at the Dialogue for Life Conference, which is organized by the First Nation and Inuit Suicide Prevention Association of Quebec and Labrador. The FNISPAQL is headed up by Doris Bobbish, the police chief's sister-in-law. She said the award ceremony was an important moment for her organization and for the Bobbish family.

"[The FNISPAQL] wants to recognize the work done by our frontline workers, and the family was very proud



EEPF Police Director Reggie Bobbish

and felt happy for him," she said, adding she wished more of his relatives could have been there to see it. "He's been in the force for a lifetime. I was very happy I was there to share that moment with him."

Bobbish said that while he appreciated the recognition, he has always been more concerned with the bigger picture.

"Throughout the years I was a proud representative of the Cree nation, and my will to succeed came with one goal in mind: to improve the well-being of my fellow citizens."

When asked whether he had any plans to retire soon, after nearly four full decades in the police force, Bobbish laughed. The laugh was part-dismissal, part-recognition: though he is making no plans currently, he admitted there'll be a time when hanging up his badge will be the best option for him and his family. But until then, he plans to keep being a role model for a quickly evolving Cree police tradition.

"As I told the students when we opened the new police program at College Ellis," he said, the strength in his voice still palpable. "It was a profession that I have undertaken for going on 40 years and today I still enjoy every minute of it."



# Hydlo and FRIENDS unplugged



## Land users share their thoughts about the EM1A/Sarcelle/Rupert project



*Hydlo and Friends is a program broadcast by JBCCS. Its hosts, Luke and Réal, discuss various matters related to Hydro-Québec activities on Eeyou Istchee lands. Swapping their mike for a pen, they invite you to explore various aspects of the Eastmain-1-A/Sarcelle/Rupert project.*

The EM1A/Sarcelle/Rupert project covers a vast territory extending over 350 km from north to south and from east to west. It impacts some 1000 km of waterways, affects 6 Cree communities and crosses 33 traplines. At the request of the Cree representatives from the HQ-Cree Monitoring Committee, HQ-SEBJ and the Niskamoon Corporation funded a conference, held on November 29 and 30, 2011, in Val-d'Or, which brought together the tallymen affected by the project.

The objective of the conference was to allow affected land users to share their experiences concerning the project. Many tallymen accepted the invitation, with over 70 participants (tallymen and guests) taking part in the two-day event.



*James Shashawescum, tallyman from VC21, poses proudly in front of a map of his trapline.*



On day 1 of the conference, participants attended one of two workshops. The first workshop was for land users from the instream flow section of the Rupert (Nemaska and Waskaganish). The second workshop brought together users of the increased flow section—the diversion bays, the Opinaca reservoir and Boyd and Sakami lakes (Mistissini, Eastmain, Wemindji and Chisasibi). Cree members of the Monitoring Committee, accompanied by Stella Jolly, Lloyd Mayappo and Merlin Whiskeychan, led discussions on a range of topics including fluctuating water levels, hunting and fishing in the project area by Crees and non-Crees, ice conditions and navigation, new access roads and mitigation measure contracts, all of which had been identified as major concerns.

On day 2 of the conference, workshop results were presented at a plenary session. Some tallymen took to the microphone to address some of the issues that are most important to them.



*Merlin Whiskeychan and Ryan Erless from Waskaganish lead workshops on the instream flow section of the Rupert.*

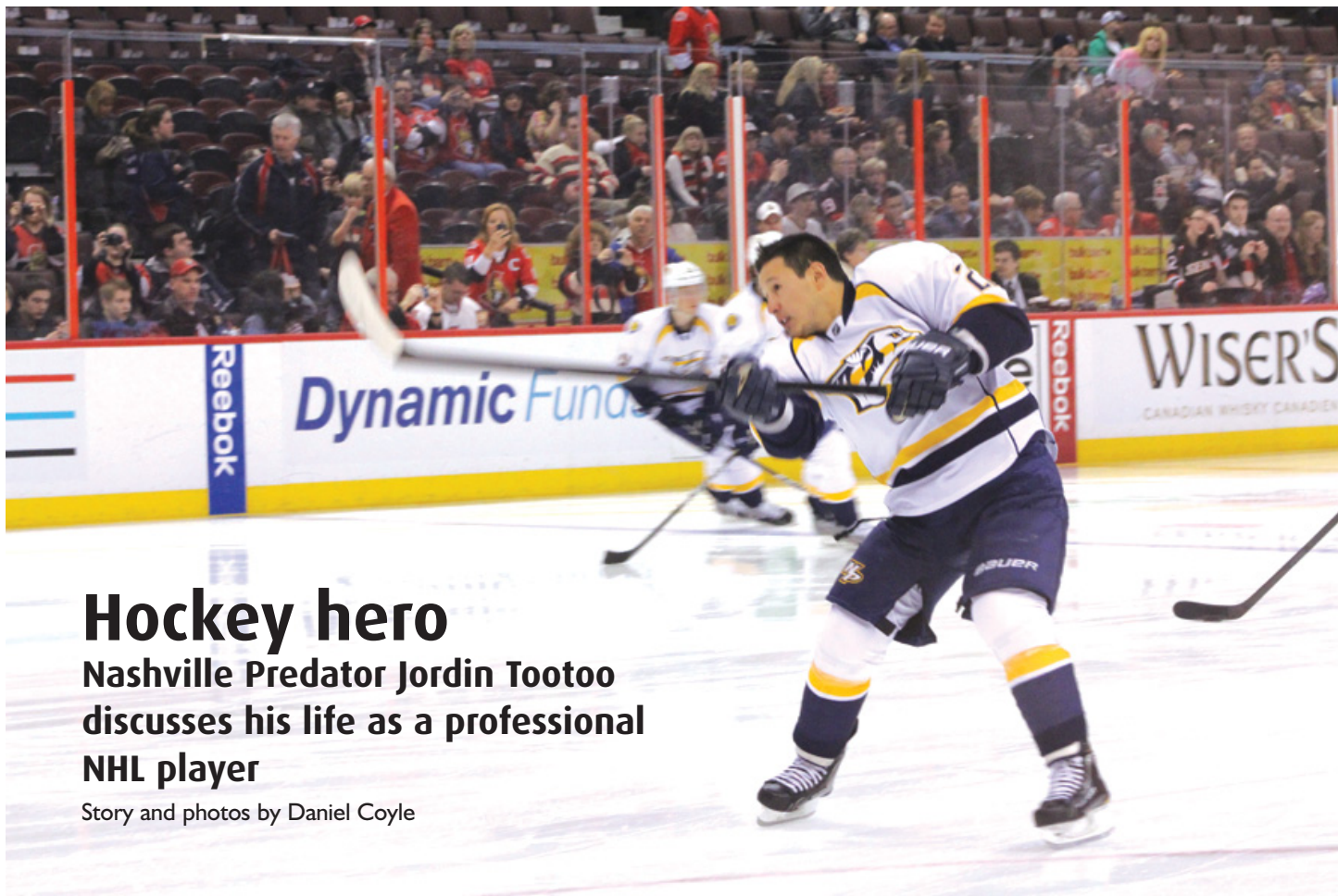


Overall, most considered the event to be positive. The discussions also allowed Cree members of the Monitoring Committee to gain a better understanding of land users' experiences with such a large-scale project. Participants expressed interest in having another conference in a few years.

**For more  
information,  
scan this  
QR code.**







# Hockey hero

## Nashville Predator Jordin Tootoo discusses his life as a professional NHL player

Story and photos by Daniel Coyle

As the NHL season enters the home-stretch, the Nashville Predators hold a familiar place in the Western Conference standings, destined to again make the NHL playoffs and take a run at the club's first Stanley Cup Championship.

A major contributor to the Predators' success this season is Jordin Tootoo. The 29-year-old from Rankin Inlet, Nunavut, Tootoo is the first Inuk to play in the National Hockey League. Currently in his eighth season with Nashville, Tootoo has travelled a difficult

road to the NHL, which started on the natural ice rinks in his hometown and then led him to leave home to play Bantam hockey in Alberta at the tender age of 14.

A year later, Tootoo joined the OCN Blizzard of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League; a club that many Eeyou Istchee hockey fans will be familiar with, and which currently has three young Eeyou Istchee players on its roster. However, while Tootoo, who was born on Feb. 2 and wears number 22, was enjoying suc-

cess on the ice at a young age, the culture shock of living away from home meant that the youngster sometimes had to fight both off and on the ice.

"As a kid growing up in an isolated community, you get used to what you have pretty damn quick," said Tootoo, in a recent interview with the Nation prior to a game against the Ottawa Senators. "For us growing up, we had the opportunity to be at the rink every day. Fortunately I got scouted when I was 14 and made the transition from living in



Nunavut to living down south. That was a tough situation for me, but I stuck it out with the support of my families, friend and, of course, my teammates.”

It was not only Tootoo’s willingness and ability to intimidate opponents and drop the gloves when required, but also the way he played the game with such a high level of energy that led Nashville scout Rick Knickle, a former NHL goaltender, to lobby hard on Tootoo’s behalf with Predators’ general manager David Poile. In June 2001, Poile made a deal for the Philadelphia Flyers’ 4th round draft pick which he used to select Tootoo, who had by this time graduated to the Brandon Wheat Kings of the Western Hockey League.

Being drafted by the Predators seemed to light a fuse under Tootoo. In the two seasons after being selected by the Predators, Tootoo’s offensive numbers rose significantly, leading to his selection as a member of Team Canada at the 2003 World Junior Hockey Championships, where he won a silver medal playing alongside such future NHL stars as Marc-André Fleury, Joffey Lupul and Derek Roy.

Within a year, Tootoo became a regular with the Predators and a fan favourite in Nashville for his hardnosed style of play. But getting to the NHL was one thing, staying there was altogether different.

Following the lockout that wiped out the 2004/2005 NHL season, Tootoo had a difficult time sticking with the big club. Naggng injuries, limited offensive output, and changes in the game that had come about as a result of new rules implemented after the lockout meant that Tootoo had to once again prove that he belonged in the NHL.

Lingering hip injuries kept him off the ice for significant stretches in 2007 and 2008, and groin and foot injuries sidelined him for 30 games in 2010. But the Predators kept their faith in Tootoo, signing him to a two-year contract that ensured he would remain a Predator until at least the end of the 2011-2012 season.

It looked like Tootoo’s time had finally arrived until suddenly, on December 28, 2010, the Predators announced that

he had voluntarily entered the NHL/NHLPA’s Substance Abuse Program to receive treatment for an alcohol problem. Tootoo rejoined the Predators, clean and sober, in February 2011 with a rejuvenated spark to his game and offensive upside, including seven points in the final seven games of the regular season, and six points and 28 penalty minutes in the 12 games Nashville contested during the 2011 playoffs.

Early in February 2012, Tootoo and Nashville teammate Brian McGrattan agreed to go on camera on TSN and Hockey Night in Canada to speak frankly about the challenges they both have faced with alcohol. Tootoo’s battle with the bottle will always be part of his story; a footnote that fans and journalists will often discuss. However, Tootoo is now seeking to start new conversa-

“HOW JORDIN HAS CHANGED OFF THE ICE IN TERMS OF GETTING HIS LIFE IN ORDER HAS MADE HIM A BETTER PLAYER. IT TOOK AWAY THE CEILING THAT WAS THERE BECAUSE OF WHAT HE WAS GOING THROUGH.”

tions that focus on team, family and community.

Approaching the 60-game mark of the 2011-2012 season, Tootoo is healthy and contributing on the ice like never before, reaching new personal highs in offensive production while also being voted by his fellow players as one of the hardest hitters in the NHL.

“I think as the years go on, the game has evolved and you have to change your tendencies,” explained Tootoo. “For me personally, I knew I had the knack to create offensive plays. Maybe in the past I was happy to play five to eight minutes a night, bringing energy and playing physical. But today, you gotta be able to play the game; you gotta be able to skate.”

Nashville coach Barry Trotz has watched Tootoo’s development since he was a teenager and has played a key role in helping Tootoo improve his game and deal with personal demons.



“How Jordin has changed off the ice in terms of getting his life in order has made him a better player. It took away the ceiling that was there because of what he was going through,” explained Trotz, the first and only coach in the history of the Predators’ franchise. “Now, he has got more patience with the puck, things have slowed down for him, he can make plays.

“Before he was just a pure energy guy, now he’s a good two-way player and has an edge to him.

He doesn’t have to fight every night but when you challenge him he will take you on, and pound for pound, he is as tough as they come.”

Trotz also views the addition of McGrattan to the Predators’ roster at the beginning of this season as a positive part of Tootoo’s recovery from alcohol and development as a player. In 2008, McGrattan, then a member of the Phoenix Coyotes, also entered the





**EAT WELL. LIVE LONGER.**  
learn more at [heartandstroke.ca](http://heartandstroke.ca)

THIS IS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN  
YOU PUT YOUR HEART INTO IT.™



**HEART &  
STROKE  
FOUNDATION**  
*Finding answers. For life.*

This space has been generously donated.

**Recall Designs** is known for its beautiful hand-crafted wood calls. Our reputation was earned by hunters who find our calls to be the most realistic out there.



We now have a new line of acrylic calls. They have many advantages such as: easy maintenance, stability in various temperatures, powerful sound, and available in a variety of colors. They provide all the sounds of a real goose: honk, cluck, double-cluck, moan, feeding call, and comeback call.

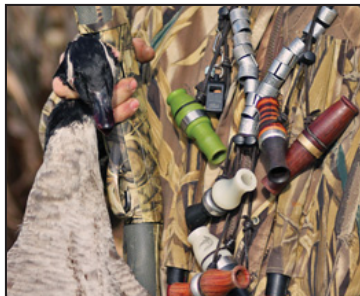
Visit our website for more information and to view our products. Have a great and safe Goose Break!



Please visit:  
[www.recalldesigns.com](http://www.recalldesigns.com)

or email me:  
[realcharles26@videotron.ca](mailto:realcharles26@videotron.ca)

**CUSTOMIZED ORDERS AVAILABLE!**



## WIN A GOOSE CALL

*The Nation and Recall Design are offering you the chance to win a hand-crafted acrylic Goose Call in time for Goose Break 2012!*

**TO ENTER – Tell us:**

**Where is the BEST place to get Goose Break supplies?**



SCAN TO ENTER ONLINE\*



SCAN TO ENTER ON FACEBOOK\* – “Like” our page, post your answer on our wall



**Contest ends March 23, 2012**

Winners will be announced on our website, Facebook page and in *the Nation* on April 6

You can also enter the contest at  
[Facebook/NATIONnewsmagazine.com](https://www.facebook.com/NATIONnewsmagazine.com) or [nationnews.ca](http://nationnews.ca)

\*Go to [www.beetagg.com/downloadreader](http://www.beetagg.com/downloadreader), iPhones – get QR reader in App Store



league's Substance Abuse Program and has been sober ever since.

"We knew what Brian had gone through, and that it had been almost three years," said Trotz. "We are a team built on second chances. We're an expansion team. We are a big believer in that. You don't get a third, but you get a second chance."

"Brian fit what we needed and I think that Brian has been a big, big rock for Toots," continued Trotz. "Going through what he has gone through, it is a battle every day. You get through the first year, you sometimes tend to let your guard down and that is when you get into trouble. I think that (Tootoo and McGrattan) rely on each other. It has been good for both of them, and it's been good for us too."

Tootoo has also played an increasing role in the city of Nashville, both in the media and with community organizations that address issues of importance to him.

Tootoo currently has a regular segment on the local news on Nashville's Channel 2, called "Tootoo on 2". He also hosts a regular radio program that broadcasts live from local restaurants, where Tootoo introduces his teammates to local fans, and provides fans with an opportunity to meet and question their local heroes.

"It's been great," Tootoo said of his recent on-air activities. "It gives our fans

a little insight into our day-to-day lives; lets them see that we are regular people who do regular things, and that we are fortunate to do what we love to do, which is play hockey."

The focus of Tootoo's community involvement is the "Team Tootoo Fund", which he founded with the goal of engaging fans and the Nashville community, and supporting non-profit organizations addressing causes close to him.

"Team Tootoo raises awareness of suicide prevention and we want to help youth at risk," said Tootoo. "This is my time to give back. I am grateful to have that opportunity."

"Anytime you go through issues off the ice, one thing you have to avoid is being idle," added Trotz. "One of things I talked to Jordin about, because I have gone through it in my own family, is that you've got to immerse yourself into something that is good for you. Jordin has a number of things he is involved with and I think it has been very good for him."

For Tootoo, his community activities go beyond giving back or keeping busy. It is very personal for him. Tootoo's older brother Terence, who played professional hockey in the ECHL, took his own life in 2002. While the tragedy has left Tootoo lonely, it has inspired him to help others deal with the types of challenges he has had to endure.

"Everyone understands that situation," said Tootoo of the loss of his brother. "And that is why I want raise awareness."

"I see kids a lot from small communities who have that passion and drive to play the game. You don't see that with a lot of kids from the big city," said Tootoo. "That's because they have the opportunity to do whatever they want. I wish kids could experience all sides of the world."

While Nashville has warmly embraced Tootoo as a native son, he has not forgotten where he comes from, and what has been required for him to successfully travel his own path.

"It all stems from how much you want it personally. That is where it all begins," stated Tootoo. "Other people can't make you decide what you want to do. It has to come from your own heart. It is important to have people who you can lean on when times are tough. The Nashville Predators organization has been a tremendous part of my life and growth as a professional; and my parents and sister have been there for me through thick and thin. I wish I could thank them as much as I would like to."

With more Tootoo-style hard work and a little luck, maybe that thanks will one day come in the form of a Stanley Cup party in the tiny community of Rankin Inlet.





Quarterback Timothy Rabbitskin of the James Bay Eagles from Quebec evades a tackle

# James Bay Eagles honour their best from 2011

By Daniel Coyle

The James Bay Eagles 6-A-Side football club recently held their off-season banquet dinner in Chisasibi. In addition to team players and coaches, representatives of Football Quebec were on hand for the special evening, which included the presentation of awards to Eagle players that demonstrated marked improvement, dedication and overall excellence in their game over the last season.

However, the Eagles did not rest for very long. Preparations for the Eagles' 2012 season are well underway with strength, speed and agility training sessions taking place under the guidance of Coach Trevor Allen Monaghan. Full training camp is scheduled to open in May, with the regular season schedule starting in July.

"This sport is really the place to become a leader, get motivated and acquire discipline," said Monaghan, in a recent CBC / Radio-Canada feature on the young coach and the football program he has developed. That feature is part of "8th Fire", an ongoing series that chronicles Canada's 500-year-old relationship with Aboriginal peoples.

"8th Fire" followed the Eagles to the 2011 6 Nations Challenge 6-A-Side football tournament, where they competed against teams from across Canada. The Eagles will be back for the 2012 tourney this August, which Football Quebec is hoping to host in Montreal for the first time.

"It's something special for our Cree youth to be involved in a national tournament. It proves to other provinces and to Football Canada that our program is a serious one," explained Monaghan.

"We prepare for this (tournament) every year. The kids are really dedicated."

Visit the Nation's facebook page ([www.facebook.com/NATIONnewsmagazine](http://www.facebook.com/NATIONnewsmagazine)) to watch the complete 8th Fire report.



James Bay Eagles Coach Trevor Monaghan rallying the troops

## James Bay Eagles 2011 Award Winners

Team MVP Midget: **Vernon Neacappo**

Team MVP Bantam: **Ronald Washipabano**

Offensive MVP Midget: **Louis-Vincent Parent**

Offensive MVP Bantam: **Vincent MacDonald**

Defensive MVP Midget: **Alex MacDonald**

Defensive MVP Bantam:

**Kwiiskwabino Joesph Dylan Neacappo**

Sook Award Midget: **Marc Scipio Rager-beauregard**

Sook Award Bantam: **Jonathan Devin Pashagumeskum**

Most Improved Midget: **Paul Bobbish**

Most Improved Bantam: **Toby Scipio**

Most Dedicated Midget: **Timothy Rabbitskin**

Most Dedicated Bantam: **Samuel Sam**

Best Lineman Midget: **Ryan Saganash-Tremblay**

Best Lineman Bantam: **Matthew Swallow Jr.**



# CREE HOCKEY

## News & Notes

by Daniel Coyle



James Bay Beavers Pee-Wee CC arrive in Quebec City to play two tourneys

### James Bay Beavers

The James Bay Beavers Pee-Wee CC participated in two tournaments in Quebec City during the month of February. At the 53rd Edition of the Quebec International Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament, the Beavers struggled in early round games, as they were defeated 3-1 by the Montmorency Armada in their first match and later eliminated from the tournament, falling to the Bellechasse Senators by a score of 4-1.

However, the Beavers have enjoyed more success at the 37th edition of the International Pee-Wee B.S.R. tournament, which also took place in the Quebec City region, in nearby Levis. As of press time, the Beavers remained undefeated the tournament in a trio of games against European clubs. In their opening match, the Beavers defeated les Chaux de Fonds, a Swiss team, 3-2 on a late third period goal by Linden Namagoose. The Beavers then followed up that win with a nail biting 5-4 overtime win over a team from Dijon, France. In their next match of the tourney, the Beavers manhandled a team

from Rouen, France, winning by a score 5-2, moving the beavers to the final rounds of the tourney.

### Cree Nation Bears

The Cree Nation Bear Midget AA squad closed out their regular season with a pair of losses on the road to the Val d'Or Apollos and Amos Comets.

However, despite finishing at the bottom of the league standings after a challenging 2011/2012 season, the Bears will open their playoff series against the Rouyn-Noranda Citadelles on home ice in Mistissini. Games 1 and 2 of the best-of-five series will take place Saturday February 18th and Sunday February 19th, after which the series will move to Rouyn-Noranda for game 3 on Friday February 24th, and Games 4 and 5 (if necessary) on Saturday February 25th and 26th.



### Tournaments

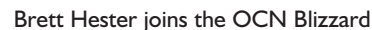
Registration is now open for teams wishing to participate in the 29th Annual Chisasibi Senior Hockey & Broomball Tournament, scheduled for March 8-11, 2012. Deadline to register is March 2. For more details, call 819-855-2878, ext. 311, 314, 315 or 416. Or send email to [chisasibi\\_recreation@hotmail.com](mailto:chisasibi_recreation@hotmail.com).

### Amos Forestiers

The Midget AAA Amos Forestiers ended the regular season on the road, defeating Laval-Montreal 6-2 before falling to division rivals College Esther-Blondin by a score of 4-2. Waskaganish's Alexander Hester finished the regular season with 10 goals and 14 assists in 41 games. Hester also led the Forestiers to victory in the first game of their playoff series against Jonquiere. Hester's two assists were key to the Forestier's 3-2 win in game 1 of the best-of-five series. Game 2 takes place in Jonquiere on February 15 before the series moves to Amos for games 3, 4 and 5 (if necessary) on the weekend of February 18-20.



It was confirmed this week that Waskaganish's Brett Hester, who suited up for the QMJHL Val d'Or Foreurs during the 2010-2011 season, will join Waswanipi's Alex Cooper and Mistissini's Jonah Coonishish-Coon on the OCN Blizzard of the Manitoba Junior Hockey League. According to Charles Hester, Brett's father, Brett Hester will likely join the Blizzard for the club's final four regular season games and the play-offs. The Blizzard are on pace to finish second in the MJHL's Sher-Wood Division, having amassed a record of 30-20-7 with 67 points, as of press time.



northern pike

walleye

perch

speckled trout

white sucker

whitefish

minnow

lake trout

sucker

sturgeon

burbot

***The 2012 edition of the James Bay Cree Telephone Book has arrived in your community!***

Beesum Communications extends special thanks to the band offices and everyone in the communities who contributed to the production of this year's telephone book.

Without you, this project would  
not have been possible.

## Want additional copies?

Each additional copy costs \$25 and \$11 shipping and handling plus taxes, if applicable.

To place your order or pay by Mastercard,  
please call 514-272-3077

Or send cheque or money order payable to:  
Beesum Communications  
4529 Clark St. suite 403  
Montreal, Qc. H2T 2T3

# Aboriginal hockey

## "Tournament of Nations" is about creating a national First Nations hockey event

By Daniel Coyle

Think for a moment about December, when Quebec's Cree gather in Val d'Or for a hockey tournament that represents the Cree Nation's largest gathering of the year.

Now imagine a hockey tournament that not only brings together Quebec's Cree, but thousands of members of First Nations from across Canada.

Now imagine hockey teams with players ranging from 8 to 18 years age taking part in the tournament; over one hundred teams, from every corner of the country, ready to face off against each other to determine which are the best Aboriginal hockey teams and who are the best players in the country.

That is the dream of Christian Flamand, a member of the Atikamekw First Nation from La Tuque, Quebec. Flamand has, for many years, organized an annual hockey tournament in La Tuque, involving First Nations minor hockey teams from across Eastern Quebec.

"THERE IS A NEED AND DESIRE TO BUILD A NATIONAL HOCKEY TEAM FOR ABORIGINALS. THE TOURNAMENT OF TOURNAMENTS IS A STEP IN THAT DIRECTION"

Flamand is now working actively to bring to life the "Tournoi des Nations" or "Tournament of Nations". According to Flamand, the Tournament of Nations would provide an opportunity for Aboriginal hockey players and teams to come together, showcase their skills and further the development of the game in First Nations communities, particularly those which are more geographically isolated or lack a strong hockey infrastructure.



Tournoi des Nations General Director Christian Flamand and team

"There is a gap between midget and junior hockey, and no organization exists to help young Aboriginal players make the next step," said Flamand. "The Tournament of Nations provides an opportunity for young Native hockey players to demonstrate their skills to

home of the QMJHL Quebec Remparts and the annual Quebec International Pee-Wee Hockey Tournament. If negotiations are successful, the 2013 Tournament of Nations would feature between 90 – 100 teams from all levels of minor hockey including Tyke, Atom, Novice, Pee Wee and Midget. As many as twenty additional teams may also be involved to play exhibition matches against Quebec City area club teams.

Flamand also plans on seeking the cooperation of Hockey Quebec and Hockey Canada with the aim of making the Tournament of Nations a sanctioned event.

"Every hockey nation has a national hockey team. Team Canada is put together to play in international tournaments," explained Flamand. "Aboriginals in Canada also want to play at a high level. We want to have partners like Hockey Canada involved in the Tournament of Nations. There is a need and desire to build a national hockey team for Aboriginals. The Tournament of Tournaments is a step in that direction."

scouts who may not otherwise see them play. The tournament would also become an important event on the hockey calendar for younger players and enable players who don't have a regular team to play on to get on the ice with other Aboriginal youth."

Flamand and his staff recently visited Quebec City, where he hopes the Tournament's inaugural edition will take place in February or March 2013. Negotiations are underway with the management of the Colisee Pepsi, which seats over 15,000 and is the current





[www.csssqnql.com](http://www.csssqnql.com)

## Is gambling taking up more and more room?

CONTACT YOUR LOCAL SUPPORT SERVICE OR CALL 1-800-461-0140 | [DONTBETITALL.COM](http://DONTBETITALL.COM)

Québec 

# Car heaven

## Montreal's International Auto Show highlights latest in automotive innovation

By Prem Lee Prasannan

Once again the Montreal International Auto Show brought excitement with the latest and greatest in technology and innovation for this year.

The 2012 edition saw integrated electronics and computer-controlled systems in almost all models. Blue-tooth systems for hands-free calls were also a common feature in all categories. As in previous years the rare vintage models on display attracted the crowds; the 1964 Austin-Healey 3000 MKIII was magical.

Kia's Optima Hybrid car came with a decently styled exterior and interior. This hybrid also boasts a Guinness world record for the lowest fuel consumption by a hybrid car. The Premium model includes a navigation system, rear-view camera, heated front and rear seats and retails for \$35,495.

Mid-range SUVs were in a tough competition as more companies lined up their models with a 4X4 or AWD option for North American drivers. Their compact design for comfortable city driving without compromising interior space and off-road capabilities was impressive. Generally, Japanese cars are known for the quality of their engineering.

The fully loaded Mitsubishi Outlander is no exception. The 3-litre, V6, 230 horsepower engine, 7-seat option came with an impressive price tag of \$39,000. With a well-designed interior, navigation system, 40-GB hard drive for music storage, Sirius radio, rear camera, and super all-wheel control with three-drive modes, Mitsubishi showed an aggressive attempt to come high in this category. The impressive styling, technology features and the 160000KM/10 year manufacturer's power-train warranty were unbeatable. Honda CRV, Subaru Forester and Toyota's RAV also got attention in this category.

In the North American off-roader class, Jeep, as usual, showed a wide range of models with off-road gadgets. The Jeep Laredo X, with a wood-trim interior, parking-assistance system and a 28 GB hard drive started at \$43,195.

For the bigger-the-better buyer, the 8-seater Honda Pilot SUV was very attractive. The interior space and quality of materials were remarkable. The fully loaded Touring model comes with front- and second-row heated seats, navigation system, XM radio and entertainment system for \$48,420. In contrast, the Lincoln MKT, V6, 3.5L with 6-seat capacity is \$62,650.

Among the trucks, the Ford F150 4X4 Cabin SuperCrew with Harley-Davidson trim starts at \$66,199 with a basic warranty of 36 months. The GMC Sierra models start at \$38,605 and their high-end Denali is loaded with chrome handles, rear-view camera, park assist and heated steering wheel, and comes in at \$62,610. The Honda's Ridgeline 4X4 appealed to me more, with the fully loaded Touring model at \$41,990.

In the high-end luxury line-up, the Bugatti, Ferrari, Porsche, Mercedes, Audi, Range Rover and BMW brands showcased



Jeep Laredo



Austin Martin

some of their top-of-the-line sports cars. Even Rolls Royce came up with their convertible "Phantom Drop Head Coupe" with a price tag of \$501,470.

The LED head- and tail-lamp lighting I saw on some models is undoubtedly sexy and sharp. I hope car-makers will not forget to add this into their design basket for the future. Even though today's manufacturing cost of electronics is drastically low, the integrated DVD entertainment and navigation systems are still not an affordable choice for the mid-range customer.

It is surprising that car manufacturers are not ready to produce an efficient hybrid design. While NGOs and government agencies are continuously preaching about environmental issues, it is unclear why the Canadian government is reluctant to provide incentives for makers and buyers of hybrid cars. I hope to see more efficient and environmentally friendly cars and SUVs on roads in the coming years.





planning

“I’m ~~afraid~~  
for my  
future.”



The Government of Canada's **Registered Disability Savings Plan (RDSP)** was created to help people with disabilities save for the future – and give them a little peace of mind.

Benefits include matching **grants** of up to **\$3,500** a year on eligible contributions.  
An **additional amount** of up to **\$1,000** a year may be available even if no contribution is made.

To find out if you or a family member is eligible, visit [disabilitysavings.gc.ca](http://disabilitysavings.gc.ca)  
or call **1 800 0-Canada (1 800 622-6232)**. TTY: 1 800 926-9105



Government  
of Canada

Gouvernement  
du Canada

Canada

# "Unfair dismissal"

## Laid-off Cree worker Gary Cooper will get his day in court in April

By Jesse Staniforth

Waswanipi truck-driver Gary Cooper felt there was something wrong with his dismissal from the Cree Construction and Development Company (CCDC) in April 2009, but he couldn't put his finger on it. He says he was told he was being laid off due to a lack of work, but other workers who had been hired after him were kept on. At the same time, he maintains, non-Cree workers from the South were taking CCDC jobs that Cooper says he thought should be going to Cree workers.

"I can understand being laid off because of a shortage of work," he says. "If you're working for a three-year project, I know when that time is going to come. But when you're doing road maintenance that takes care of the Route du Nord all the way up to James Bay Road, the main road to Matagami, that road never disappears. It's always a process: you have to keep it open. So I set myself up to stay there as long as I could."

Cooper figured he was well placed to remain in his position. As workers who had been there ahead of him were leaving, he kept count, noting that only three others had been there longer than he had.

"I knew where I stood," he says. "Then I got laid off – and they needed 10 people to stay there!"

At the time, Cooper didn't understand his reasons for being laid off, but he suspected favouritism.

"A lot of the workers don't go through the hiring process at [Cree Human Resources Development (CHRD)] because of project managers," Cooper says. "[The project managers] were keeping their own people – non-Natives. They bypass the CHRD and go directly to people in Montreal or places like that."

He claims he knew of non-Aboriginal workers from cities in the south who used false addresses to apply for work with the CCDC, and feels that when the time came for layoffs, the CCDC should have given

priority protection to Cree employees who had been there the longest.

Cooper began talking with his lawyer about the possibility of a lawsuit against the CCDC; on April 24, he will get his day in court.

According to Cooper, the CCDC has told him that it does not have to give hiring priority to Cree workers because it is a private business. Cooper disagrees strongly with this.

"Where did the money come from to start Cree Construction?" he says. "They have to get the money from some place. They got it from the CRA or the CREECO treasury. That's our money, our funding, our people."

It will be for the judge to decide whether the CCDC has the responsibility to the community that Cooper says it does. All the same, much of the CCDC's public image revolves around its association with the Cree Nation as a whole, a position that may foster the impression that it is a public company.

"This Canadian company is owned entirely by The James Bay Cree of Northern Quebec," reads the CCDC website. Among its primary purposes, it lists developing projects within Eeyou Istchee "that will provide opportunities for the Cree nation", and it refers to work on the Eastmain-1 hydroelectric station, saying, "Ten different construction companies hired Cree workers [...] However, the CCDC alone accounted for 96% of hours worked by Cree employees."

As a result, it is possible to understand Cooper's rejection of the argument that the CCDC has no obligation to give hiring priority to Cree people over non-Aboriginal workers.

Further complicating the story, however, is a letter that Cooper received in August 2011 from Eric Wood, his former foreman. In it, Wood states that he received a direct order from CCDC Executive Director Robert Baribeau to

"get rid of Gary Cooper". Wood's letter says that when he asked questions, Baribeau claimed that Cooper was selling drugs and alcohol.

"To the best of my knowledge," reads Wood's letter, "I had no evidence to justify such a reason. I was told to make up an excuse (plan) that S.E.B.J. was closing your position (Water Tanker)."

Cooper laughs at the suggestion that he was selling drugs. He says that he sent a letter to the CCDC informing them of Wood's claim his dismissal was related to this accusation, and has not yet seen a response.

"I don't think they want to go near those accusations, those rumours. The law doesn't make room for rumours," he says.

William MacLeod, president of the CCDC, refused to discuss the story, saying, "We wouldn't comment on anything when there's a lawsuit."

However, court documents show that the CCDC maintains that Cooper lost his job as part of a routine layoff. The same documents claim the CCDC offered Cooper an alternate 18-month position as a truck driver, a statement that Cooper says is false.

The judge hearing Cooper's case is Robert M. Mainville, a former lawyer for the Grand Council of the Crees who became a Federal Court judge in June 2009. Cooper's complaint against the CCDC will be the first Cree-related case that Mainville has heard since becoming a judge.

When it comes to his chances in court, Cooper is uncertain how his case will play out.

"You know, the judge doesn't have to listen to me," Cooper says. "If I lose, I'm still going to go home to my wife and my children. I'm still going to breathe the same air. I'm not going to put a bullet through my head. I'm here to try to defend my own people, and how they treat us. And I'm sure there's a long list of people behind me. I'm not alone in this."



**Coming soon!  
Don't miss it.**

**Ask your PSO for  
dates and details.**

**HELPING YOU TO BE A RESPONSIBLE  
DOG OWNER**



## FIRST PEOPLES STUDIES PROGRAM

**ARE YOU INTERESTED IN THE WORLD OF FIRST PEOPLES  
(FIRST NATIONS, INUIT, AND MÉTIS), SPECIFICALLY WITHIN  
THE QUEBEC CONTEXT?**

Would you like to investigate the history, the current situation,  
and the changing needs of First Peoples?

Consider the First Peoples Studies Program\*. Taught from First Peoples' perspectives and based on sound, culturally sensitive research, the program's aim is to create a better awareness and understanding of First Peoples' issues in an effort to develop mutual and respectful relationships between Quebec society and First Peoples.

\* Subject to MELS approval - not available yet

To learn more about the First Peoples Studies program visit:

 [scpa-eapc.concordia.ca/firstpeoples](http://scpa-eapc.concordia.ca/firstpeoples)

 Concordia University  
**Arts and Science**

## THE ADVENTURES OF CHIKABASH

**MEET CHIKABASH.  
PART HERO, PART MISCHIEF-MAKER.  
ALL HEART!**



**Hot off the presses and available  
now for only \$25.00 plus shipping  
and handling.**

The following five legends are included in this 48-page book, beautifully illustrated by renowned Cree artist Peter Pelchat:

- In the Beginning
- Chikabash meets Kâchîdûshkw
- Chikabash meets the Mishdâbâuch
- Chikabash gets Married
- Chikabash meets the Sun

Encounter monsters, meet mythical beings and explore ancient lands in this collection of stories about a gifted young man cherished by generations of Cree families. (Written in English)

To order your copy please contact us:

email: [beesum@beesum-communications.com](mailto:beesum@beesum-communications.com)  
phone: (514) 272-3077 Ask for Séri or Michel

By Lyle Stewart

## Romeo, Romeo, where art thou

There are many who saluted Romeo Saganash's candidacy for the leadership of the federal New Democratic Party as historic. That it was, as we can say now in the past tense: Saganash ended his leadership bid February 9 after political and financial realities caught up to a campaign that won national attention but little firm support.

Nonetheless, Saganash did himself and the people of Eeyou Istchee proud with his courage to run and by running a serious and credible campaign. Many observers and fellow New Democrats enthusiastically congratulated his decision last fall to enter the race to replace the late Jack Layton... even as they just as determinedly chose to support other candidates when the party elects a new leader March 24.

It may be a bit hard to believe in 2012 that Romeo was the first-ever Aboriginal candidate for the leadership of a national political party in Canada. For a non-Native like myself who happens to support the party he wanted to lead, it's an encouraging step, if late in coming. I hope the disappointing levels of support he attracted more reflect his status as a rookie MP with relatively shallow roots in the NDP.

The nagging suspicion that a First Nations politician faces a steeper uphill struggle to win serious consideration as a national political leader and potential prime minister can't be discounted, sadly. Yet, even if this might have been a factor in Canada's political matrix of 2012, Romeo's audacity wasn't wasted. He succeeded in raising his profile, both in the party and nationally. And that may

have been the immediate goal; though every candidate will always say publicly they're in the race to win regardless of their actual chances.



A few years down the road, after Saganash proves he can be re-elected in his sprawling riding of Abitibi-Baie-James-Nunavik-Eeyou, and after he possibly serves as a cabinet minister in a future NDP government, the odds might tilt much more favourably. In the meantime, he has plenty of time to review what he did right, what he did wrong, and what he can do to prepare for the next time the party is again looking for a leader.

Which brings me, briefly, to the seven remaining candidates. That number is down from nine, mercifully, as the unilingual Nova Scotia MP Robert Chisholm previously grasped the basic political reality that a potential prime minister must have at least a basic com-

mand of both Canada's official languages (and, we might add, should maybe mutter "meegwetch" or "wachiya" occasionally to acknowledge the tongues that preceded English and French in this land). Anyway, I'd like the number of candidates to shrink even further, at least to a more-manageable and credible five with at least a theoretical chance of winning.

As attractive as they may be to their small but hardy bands of diehard supporters, for instance, Niki Ashton and Martin Singh don't have the slightest hope of making a dent in this race and should also withdraw to enable a more focused contrast between the top-tier candidates.

If nothing else, this would allow us to hear the remaining five at greater length. Debate formats with a plethora of no-hopers is a contributing sedative to the snooze factor that has characterized much of this long campaign – and, likely, to the recent slide in polling numbers for the NDP.

This is important. We need to hear from the candidates in much greater detail. And the leadership contest must do more to grab the attention of the public, and not just party insiders. One way to do that is to separate the serious from the lightweights. In this age of notoriously short attention spans, there is an increasing tendency to speak in political shorthand – an insider code – to get easy nods and applause from niche groups familiar with the jargon. Indeed, "shorthand" may too kind an adjective: Twitter and FB status updates are helping reduce discussions and



debate to a simple regurgitation of hot-button terms.

That's the impression I had of a couple candidates during an informal leadership debate in Montreal a few weeks ago. Niki Ashton was particularly underwhelming in this regard. Simply uttering a string of key words – Housing! Youth! Progressive! New! – does not constitute a policy platform. Nor does it tell us anything at all about her relationship to any of these adjectives and common nouns. (Ottawa MP Paul Dewar was not much better in this regard.)

At worst, it's the equivalent of listening to a Tea Party extremist from the US scream Gays! Mexicans! Obamacare! Freedom! It's an easy way to excite their fellow travellers in the torch-and-pitchfork crowd.

The NDP must do much better. There is now a historic opportunity to overcome the built-in handicaps of our political system that inherently favour the powerful in our society. As the government-in-waiting, the party can't afford a leader who will need time to

learn on the job, a luxury that Jack Layton enjoyed (and certainly made the most of, to his credit). These are themes I'll return to in greater detail before March 24.

In the meantime, I'd like to take a light-hearted moment to make a plea

incredible election campaign that elevated the party to official opposition status. And I must say that I was inspired by Romeo's ability to trip the light fantastic. Perhaps in part because of the young, eye-catching members he attracted to the dance-floor during a

THE NAGGING SUSPICION THAT A FIRST NATIONS POLITICIAN FACES A STEEPER UPHILL STRUGGLE TO WIN SERIOUS CONSIDERATION AS A NATIONAL POLITICAL LEADER AND POTENTIAL PRIME MINISTER CAN'T BE DISCOUNTED, SADLY.

for a sense of rhythm in the next great hope of Canada's progressives. I can personally attest that this is something that should serve Romeo Saganash rather well in his future political career.

I attended the triumphant and at times giddy NDP convention in Vancouver last June shortly after the

late-night party in the city's stunning harbour-side convention centre. But there it is: sex appeal and a sense of rhythm can be important political assets. To intentionally misquote anarchist Emma Goldman, "If he can't dance, I don't want him leading the revolution!"



## The Renard Project

Stornoway will present its  
Environmental and Social Impact Study  
to the members of the Cree Nation of Mistissini  
on March 15, 2012

Time and location will be communicated soon!

Hélène Robitaille  
Manager, Community Relations  
Training & Development  
[hrobitaille@stornowaydiamonds.com](mailto:hrobitaille@stornowaydiamonds.com)

[www.stornowaydiamonds.com](http://www.stornowaydiamonds.com)  
[www.twitter.com/swydiamonds](http://www.twitter.com/swydiamonds)  
TSX:SWY



## UNDER THE NORTHERN SKY

### Aboriginal women breaking the trail

by Xavier Kataquapit

**F**irst Nation women I have met over the years in general have always impressed me. My earliest recollections of Native women are positive. My mom and my two sisters always seemed to be strong people who could pitch in and help when they were needed.

In my professional life as a writer, I have met so many strong and capable Native women. Many of our First Nation organizations feature the leadership of these women at all levels. I know many women Chiefs and I see the good work they are doing in communities right across Canada.

Recently, I met with some of these women leaders involved with the Temiskaming Native Women's Support Group (TNWSG). These ladies are a force to be reckoned with. Over the years, they have worked together to create an incredible facility that offers all kinds of high-quality programs in Kirkland Lake and New Liskeard. I toured their Keepers Of The Circle daycare. I sure wish I had access to a program like this when I was a young child. I watched as children in several age groups played, sang and learned in a safe, Native-oriented daycare. I was impressed by the care of the qualified instructors and the positive feeling of the cozy and creative environment.

It felt really good to see little First Nation children and non-Native children exposed to and nurtured with Aboriginal culture and traditions. It made me feel so happy to see these young children being taught that they should be proud to be Aboriginal.

The facility, which features many learning tools and visual aids having to do with Native culture, is designed around concepts and teachings of the circle and the medicine wheel. A lot of thought was put into developing the facility and in particular the daycare centre.

Aboriginal women like Laura Jean Flood, Anne Batisse, Roberta Oshkawbewisens and Stephanie Wincikaby have been instrumental in developing the facility and its programs including: an early learning program, Canada prenatal nutrition program, diabetes prevention, health and wellness and life skills. Area First Nation women like these special ladies have produced a place where Aboriginal women can find support, life skills teachings and a safe learning environment for young children. It made my heart feel good to see my people taking care

of each other. Women really are the backbone of the Aboriginal culture and here in Kirkland Lake and New Liskeard they have provided a shining example of what can happen when our grandmothers, mothers, daughters and sisters organize together.

These days strong First Nation women are making headlines with the courageous work they are doing right across the country. Women like Attawapiskat Chief Theresa Spence are letting the world know how difficult things are for Aboriginal people in remote First Nations right across Canada. Women Chiefs all across the country are helping to make their communities more successful and positive even in dire conditions. The work they are doing today will provide a better tomorrow for future generations. Aboriginal people really believe that our future generations will blossom and provide the leadership we need to face challenges in this new millennium.

Part of the reason of the successful development of First Nation women has to do with the Ontario Native Women's Association (ONWA). This not-for-profit organization was established in 1972 to empower and support Aboriginal women and their families in Ontario. ONWA has grown to develop into one of the most progressive Aboriginal organizations in Ontario with a head office in Thunder Bay and satellite offices in Kenora, Dryden, Sioux Lookout, Geraldton/Greenstone, Ottawa, Napanee and Hamilton. They have programs that include Aboriginal diabetes education, healthy babies-healthy children, Aboriginal justice, building Aboriginal women's leadership, community health outreach, community wellness, employment and training, mental health demonstration, Nihdawain "My House – a place where I live", policy and research and problem gambling awareness. The many First Nation women across the province belonging to ONWA work on the basis to keep grounded in Aboriginal culture, language and heritage. They believe it is important to share cultural teachings, teach the language and embrace family traditions and heritage. ONWA is also affiliated with the Native Women's Association of Canada.

I would like to say Meegwetch to the strong and positive Aboriginal women we have working for us all across Canada. They are breaking the trail.



# CLASSIFIEDS

## BIRTHDAYS

I would like to wish a happy birthday to my sister Annie Wapachee in Nemaska. She will be celebrating her birthday on February 26th, 2012. Hope you have fun on your birthday with my son Chase :-). Glad you will be taking care of him while I am away. Have a wonderful time on your birthday. With love, from your sis Victoria and your nephew Chase. -XOXO-

Happy Birthday to my buddy Deborah Loon & can't wait for our lunch date. Yours in friendship, Line

## EVENTS/RESOURCES

**Art Workshops for Youth:** If you are between the ages of 15 and 29 you are invited to develop your creativity in weekly stone carving workshops being conducted at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located at 2001 boul. St. Laurent corner Ontario street (downstairs in the building of the Native Friendship Centre of Montreal). Workshops are every Thursday from 3pm to 6pm. For further information call 514-499-1854.

**Need a tutor?** The Homework Help Program offers free one-on-one tutoring to Aboriginal youth. The program will match the needs of the Aboriginal youth to McGill students that have knowledge in a particular school subject. To sign up your child send an e-mail to [mcgillhomeworkhelp@gmail.com](mailto:mcgillhomeworkhelp@gmail.com) and let them know what grade your child is in and what subjects they need help with. The tutoring sessions will be held at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located downstairs at the Native Friendship Centre at 2001 St. Laurent Boulevard, corner Ontario street, between 4pm and 5:30pm on every Monday afternoon beginning in March 2012.

The Best Story Ever Told is part of the after school series for youth that the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre has teamed up on with McGill University's Aboriginal Sustainability Project. This is a chance for Aboriginal youth to express their stories through a series of different art and media projects in a creative and fun atmosphere. The free workshops will be held every Wednesday between 4pm and 5:30pm in March through June of 2012 at the Inter-Tribal Youth Centre located downstairs at the Native Friendship Centre at 2001 St. Laurent Boulevard, corner Ontario street. For more information send an email to [youth.coordinator@nfcsm.org](mailto:youth.coordinator@nfcsm.org) or call 514-499-1854 ext. 2229

**Great Blue Heron Poetry Contest & Sheldon Currie Fiction Contest.** \$2,400 in prizes to be won! Fiction entries must be postmarked by May 31, 2012 and poetry must be postmarked by June 30, 2012. All submissions must be mailed to: The Antigonish Review Contest, P.O. Box 5000, St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada, B2G 2W5. For complete guidelines, email [TAR@stfx.ca](mailto:TAR@stfx.ca), call 902-867-3962 or visit our website at [www.antigonishreview.com](http://www.antigonishreview.com)

## PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

**Where to get help: bilingual, anonymous, confidential and free phone services, 24 hours a day 7 days a week.**

**Kid's Help Phone Line:** 1-800-668-6868  
([www.kidshelpphone.ca](http://www.kidshelpphone.ca))

**Youth Helpline:** 1-800-263-2266 ([www.teljeunes.com](http://www.teljeunes.com))

**Parents' Helpline:** 1-800-361-5085  
([www.parenthelpline.ca](http://www.parenthelpline.ca))

**Missing Children's Network:** They'll help you find kids who have run away or disappeared. 514-843-4333  
([www.enfant-retourquebec.ca](http://www.enfant-retourquebec.ca))

**Drug Addiction help and reference:** 1-800-265-2626  
([www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca](http://www.drogue-aidereference.qc.ca))

**Gambling Addiction help and reference:** 1-800-265-2626  
([www.info-reference.qc.ca](http://www.info-reference.qc.ca))

**S.O.S. Conjugal Violence:** 1-800-363-9010  
([www.sosviolenceconjugale.com](http://www.sosviolenceconjugale.com))

**Health and Sexuality Resources Center:** 1-888-855-7432  
(Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm) ([www.criss.org](http://www.criss.org))

**Gay Helpline:** 1-888-505-1010 (Monday to Friday, 8 am to 3 am and Saturday-Sunday, 11 am to 3 am)

**The Native Women's Shelter of Montreal:** 1-866-403-4688  
([www.nwsm.info](http://www.nwsm.info))

**Suicide Action Québec:** 1-866-277-3553  
([www.suicide-quebec.net/](http://www.suicide-quebec.net/))

**Residential School Survivors:** A 24 hour toll-free crisis line is available to provide immediate emotional assistance and can be reached 24-hours a day, seven days a week: 1-866-925-4419. Other support services and information for survivors is available on the AFN website at: [www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources](http://www.afn.ca/residentialschools/resources)

# It takes 11 muscles to read this ad.

Don't take your muscles for granted. Over 50,000 Canadians with muscular dystrophy take them very seriously.

Learn more at [muscle.ca](http://muscle.ca)

**Muscular Dystrophy Canada**  
let's make muscles move

**Currently in production:**  
***"Indians and Aliens" (Tales from Kilometre 509)*** is a documentary TV series about unidentified aerial phenomena – also known as UFOs – that have been witnessed in and around Cree communities.

**You can also contact us on our UFO hotline 1-877-814-9011  
- ask for the Alien at the Nation...  
Or by email: [km509@resolutionpictures.com](mailto:km509@resolutionpictures.com)**



இலட்சுமி.ஓ.ஓ.ஓ. 2012




 tourisme  
**Baie-James**



CHIBOUGAMAU

**1-888-748-8140**

Don't forget:  
Gala régional des  
Grands Prix du tourisme  
March 29<sup>th</sup> - 5:00 PM  
in Waswanipi  
Shuttle transportation  
available



**Université du Québec  
en Abitibi-Témiscamingue**





***Your Northern Airline of choice!***



**Air Creebec**

For reservations, charters or information, call toll-free: 1-800-567-6567  
Or visit our website at: [www.aircreebec.ca](http://www.aircreebec.ca)